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Latin America Report



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25 September 1984

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TRINIDAD SENATOR ASSESSES UNION SITUATION IN GRENADA

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 84 p 9

[The GUARDIAN concludes today the three part series by Senator Dr Sahadeo Basdeo on Grenada today. The writer was a member of the official Trinidad and Tobago mission to Grenada. He is a lecturer in history and Caribbean social affairs at UWI, St Augustine]

[Text] THROUGHOUT Grenada there is a strong desire for national unity among all groups as they begin the process of national reconstruction.

Regardless of class, religious or ideological position, Grenadians are at one in their objective to get the Spice Isle back on its feet.

This is characterised by co-operation rather than conflict, by agreement on common priorities for recovery and by the shelving, at least temporarily, of ideological differences where such exist between groups.

At the forefront of this movement is the Trade Union Council of Grenada.

Own Problems

Fraught with its own problems, the Grenada T.U.C. has abandoned its militant posturings which have come to characterise the trade union movement in recent decades and has committed itself to working for that which is necessary to rekindle a sense of confidence once again among Grenadians.

The Grenada T.U.C. is itself currently engaged in a rebuilding exercise. It is slowly emerging from a period of low morale caused by the events of October 1983.

The death or imprisonment of its leaders during the fateful month--particularly the death of people like Vincent Noel, president of the Bank of General Workers Union, the fear of retaliation and recrimination against its membership in the aftermath of the crisis and the intervention of the United States were major set-backs for the T.U.C.

With that aside, attempts are now being made to revitalise the movement by demonstrating its concern over the serious problems in the country.

Regular meetings are held to discuss the T.U.C.'s input in the national recovery process and dialogue exist between the offices of the Advisory Council and the trade union movement on a number of issues.

These are not narrowly confined to the interest of workers alone but are national in scope and are commonly shared by other groups regardless of political, class or ideological persuasion.

In fact the T.U.C. is not at variance with the Grenada Employees Federation, the Chamber of Commerce, the Grenada Hotel Association, the shipping agents or the Advisory Council as to where the emphasis should be placed for national recovery.

It is as if the October crisis of 1983 has done more for national unity than any other single event in recent decades.

Training

The T.U.C. advocates the need for a rapid industrial development programme as a means of improving the country's present economic woes and reducing its high level of unemployment.

It calls for assistance in manpower training for its citizens in such areas as the craft skills, accountancy, air-traffic controllers, labour inspectors, labour officers, management and industrial relations experts, hotel/catering management, meteorology and public sector managers.

It supports need for a management training centre to train public sector personnel in Grenada.

It views as a matter of urgency the need to develop the Grenada hotel industry through a programme of joint venture projects to take care of the anticipated tourist boom expected with the opening of Point Salines Airport.

It seeks help through counterpart funding arrangements and the like to undertake infrastructural work such as provision of better roads, water and reliable electricity supply.

It urgently requires the provision of specialists in agricultural science to assist in the control and eradication of the Moko, Leaf Spot and Red Ring diseases which hamper their banana, cocoa and coconut crops.

Apart from overt national needs, the trade union movement itself requires assistance of its own if it is to become an equal partner in the dynamic process of social and economic recovery in Grenada.

Training and personnel development has been identified as a major area of need and the Grenada T.U.C. is heavily relying upon its Trinidad counterpart, the Trinidad and Tobago Labour Congress for assistance in this regard.

The Grenada T.U.C. requires scholarships from the Cipriani Labour College so that its new membership and leadership can be trained in the role and

responsibility of trade unions in such areas as labour relations, collective bargaining and trade union organization.

Furthermore the Grenada T.U.C. would like to engage in closer cooperation with Congress so as to facilitate a programme of personnel and information exchange in the mutual interest of workers in both countries much in keeping with the cooperation and exchange of information which existed between labour organisations in both countries during the challenging decades of the twenties, thirties and forties of this century.

Influenced

The Grenada T.U.C. would therefore welcome to establishment of a communication network with their Trinidad counterpart which would facilitate discussion on issues of mutual interest.

Such issues of immediate importance would include:

The terms of trade between both countries and its effects on workers;

how best to rationalise the investment potential of the C.B.I. so as to avoid unnecessary competition for products of a similar type in a limited Caribbean markets which can only work to the detriment of Caribbean workers;

and to share information which would strengthen cooperation between both bodies and act as an influential force in bringing Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada closer together.

CSO: 3298/1069

TWO PERUVIAN BOATS CAPTURED OFF ARICA

PY062355 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2140 GMT 6 Sep 84

[Relay from Arica by Jorge Alfaro]

[Excerpts] Although this might sound like an old story, two Peruvian schooners have again clandestinely entered Chilean jurisdictional waters to undertake industrial fishing.

The schooner, which managed to enter Chilean waters at night, are ("Pichon,") with 73 tons gross weight, owned by the (Imeraz) Industrial Enterprise and manned by 11 crewmen under the command of Captain (Victor Postigliossi Gonzalez); and the ("Chino Segundo,") with 20 tons gross weight, owned by industrialist Manuel Manzanares and manned by 9 crewmen under the command of Captain (Delio Ramirez Llanos).

These ships crossed the maritime border between Chile and Peru off the African coastline and entered 5 miles into Chilean waters.

At 0400 this morning the Peruvian ships were captured by the patrol vessel "Antuco," of the Arica maritime post, and were taken to the commercial port of Arica.

In keeping with the respective laws, the naval authority has imposed a 15,000 pesos gold fine on each schooner. The Tacna-based owners have been taking steps to pay the fine, which they were unable to do this afternoon, and which is expected to take place tomorrow before noontime, when the two schooners should be authorized to return to Peruvian jurisdictional waters.

No catch has been confiscated from these two ships since they were captured when they were just starting to fish.

CSO: 3348/563

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JAMAICA TEAM TO RAHAMAS--Kingston, 17 Aug (CANA)--A trade mission from Jamaica's Exporters and Manufacturers Association will visit the Bahamas from 9 to 16 September, it has been announced here. The team will be headed by Jamaica's Industry and Commerce Minister Douglas Vaz, the Exporters Association said. The Bahamas, a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), is by regional standards a heavy importer but buys little from community partners. At the CARICOM summit held in Trinidad and Tobago last year, Bahamian Prime Minister Lynden Pindling invited CARICOM countries to send selling missions to the Bahamas, and he repeated the invitation when he hosted the summit in July. A wide cross section of Jamaican products will be on display in the Ambassador Hotel in New Providence, the Bahamian capital. A Jamaican survey has shown a high potential for Jamaican exports to the Bahamas, the exporters said. The Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and the Bahamian Ministry of Economic Development are both cooperating with the Jamaicans to ensure success, they added. A recent visit to the Bahamas by Jamaica's trade commissioner in Miami, Erroll James, confirmed that the market situation is respective for a number of Jamaican productions. These include art and craft items, bed linens, curtains and drapes, carpets, candies and confectionary, cigars, coffee, footwear, furniture, resort wear, hardware and building products, jewellery and giftware, meat products, perfumes, toiletries and cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, processed foods, and tableware and cutlery. [Text] [Bridgetown CANA in English 2050 GMT 17 Aug 84]

CSO: 3298/1069

MID SCORES ECONOMIC POLICY, DEMANDS ADJUSTMENTS

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Jul 84 p 8

[Text] The Movement for Integration and Development [MID] has severely criticized the government's economic policy put forward in the draft national budget now being examined by the Congress, and has described it as "an extremely recessive instrument."

It also says that "wages remain the adjustment variable" in the crisis despite official claims to the contrary "because nothing has been done to deal with the causes of the crisis and we are following the same blueprint that was used until 10 December 1983."

The MID has thus stated its position regarding the draft national budget in a document released yesterday and signed by Arturo Frondizi and Rogelio Frigerio, respectively chairman and deputy chairman of the MID.

The document states that a study of the budget shows that "instead of cutting back on unproductive state expenditures, they are trying to reduce the deficit by increasing taxes" and stresses the fact that "the Executive Branch wants to secure from the Congress powers of doubtful constitutionality to avoid an adjustment of the figures" since the budget figures are based on the June prices and do not include an inflationary variable factor until the end of the year.

The MID members emphasize their willingness to "assume our responsibility and cooperate in solving the problems," and to remedy the situation they propose that salaries be increased "under a scheme linking these salary hikes to increased production" and that control on prices be removed because they believe that "such controls generate recession and a shortage of supplies."

They also call for lower interest rates which must be achieved through effective means "by discouraging speculation on foreign currency something which requires that the rate of exchange be set at an adequate level."

In the view of the MID this will help to improve trade exchanges and will attract risk capital "to reopen the plants and mobilize assets which have been idle, but the MID stresses that "all these measures must go hand in hand with actions to attack the causes of the crisis--excessive public spending and underdevelopment."

The MID puts forward a political proposal intended "to seek spheres of agreement between the various sectors which are willing to make the necessary sacrifices" but makes a distinction "between the spheres of agreement and real agreements reached between leaders" adding that "we do not want these agreements, often embellished with fine-sounding language, to be used as the means to stifle social demands."

The document stresses that the draft national budget is a key element because its effects will be "painfully felt in the short run and will be an insuperable obstacle to the mid-term plan under preparation" and this is why "the problem spreads beyond the sphere of public finances and economy because it is linked to the need to strengthen the democratic process."

Therefore the document considers that to bring about the absolutely necessary consolidation of the constitutional authority one must also adjust the basic policy", which is why "it is the duty of the government to rectify without reservations the ideological anachronisms which make it insist on a policy that has already failed under civilian and military regimes."

After pointing out that the draft budget "is extremely recessive," the document goes on to note that salaries have fallen behind by 11 percent compared to last December and that is the salary "scale" set by the government is to be observed, the increases will be totally inadequate for workers, employees and retirees while enterprises affected by the recession will be hard put to bear these increases."

Further on the document says that "despite its rhetoric the government (through that budget) is trying to meet the guidelines set by the International Monetary Fund. In its view the government should have acted "the other way around: first launching a program of expansion and measures to deal with the unproductive public spending, then renegotiating the foreign debt under conditions favorable to the country."

Finally the document says that "we, members of the MID, are willing to assume our responsibilities and cooperate in solving the problems, a task which cannot be left in the hands of just one party or one sector."

8796
CSO: 3348/534

BUSINESS, LABOR REVIEW GOVERNMENT'S SOCIOECONOMIC DOCUMENT

Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Aug 84 sec 2 p 2

[Text] Roberto Favelevic, president of the Argentinian Industrial Union (UIA), has said that the document setting out the guidelines for a social compact, which he received on Tuesday, "is much more comprehensive and contains far more elements" than the speech made last month by the minister of economy. On the other hand Osvaldo Borda, one of the four general secretaries of the CGT [General Confederation of Labor], stated that "it will be necessary to discuss the procedure to be followed by the various sides" to reach the agreement proposed by the government.

Favelevic said that the document sent to the production sectors contains "suggestions on many questions related to different spheres of the economy" but he explained that he could not specify "whether all the variables" which the UIA wants to be taken into account "had been considered."

Borda, for his part, declared that the government had gone the wrong way around by first presenting a document with general guidelines for contract negotiations, then proposing the creation of working commissions.

"We cannot work on the basis of a document presented to us," Borda said, "and then speak about commissions because the document must reflect ideas of the involved parties and then the means to implement them must be discussed."

Favelevic's Views

The head of the UIA for his part pointed out that the document "specifies the goals and gives a diagnosis" of the current economic and social situation in the country.

He said that the UIA will decide whether or not it will participate in the social compact after making an evaluation to establish first, whether it agrees with the diagnosis and second, whether it agrees with the economic goals set by the government.

For this purpose, Favelevic said that a group of industrialists from the Economic Analysis Branch of the UIA was studying the document and that next Tuesday the organization's Executive Committee will meet to hear "a preliminary report" on the results of that study.

The organization's Executive Committee will "evaluate the report and subsequently present it to the government with whatever suggestions are considered to be necessary."

Favelevic emphasized that during the meeting with the government there was "evidence of goodwill from all the participants who are seeking a common ground." He also noted that this common ground will take specific shape "when the legal and economic instruments required to achieve the goals are defined."

"Differences are very likely to appear when that stage is reached," the businessman said, "because agreement is possible with regard to the goals but we must see which specific measures are more effective than others."

Borda's Opinion

Borda has acknowledged that there is real potential for a social compact between management, government and unions.

The leading official also said that one of the main areas where an agreement is possible is in the fight against inflation and to that end "we are going to discuss effective measures on the short and medium term affecting public spending, the problem of taxes, management control, the part played by credit and by the financial system and how to absorb the unemployed labor force."

On the subject of the steps which the workers' organization will be taking in the future, Borda explained that after studying the document prepared by the government, as well as the minister of labor's answer concerning salary guidelines for the month of August, the CGT Council will hold a meeting "after which we will be able to proceed to define the procedure that must be followed to reach an agreement."

8796

CSO: 3348/534

SUPREME COURT TO DECIDE ON SASETRU'S CASE

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Aug 84 p 23

[Text] The enterprise ASTRA intends to help SASETRU with its recovery program.

To that effect leading officials from both companies had meetings, attended by ASTRA's Chairman Ricardo Gruneisen, to hammer out an agreement by which the oil company will offer to SASETRU its expertise in the fields of project appraisal and company management. It is reported that under the terms of that agreement ASTRA will get priority in some business activities which could be to its advantage.

To that effect a letter of intent (SASETRU is still not allowed to sign agreements since it has filed bankruptcy) setting out the terms of cooperation between the two companies is being considered.

Since the end of last year, SASETRU has signed letters of intent with several companies ready to join in the business recovery program. SASETRU's new management has formally expressed its intention to enter into partnerships which will provide the capital required to reopen the company currently closed down.

It is reported that ASTRA's involvement in the SASETRU case is due, among other things, to the fact that President Alfonsin has formally stated that the resumption of activities by that business concern "was a priority and in the interest of the country."

To judge from what is happening, ASTRA seems to have responded favorably to the government's call for action. It must be noted that the resumption of work by the SASETRU enterprise will provide work for 10,000 people.

Court Case

The final decision on SASETRU's fate is in the hands of the courts. The Supreme Court is to decide whether or not it will approve the offers made by the company to its creditors, 95 percent of whom accepted these offers when they were made. The agreement between the company and its creditors was not approved by the lower courts. The Court of Appeal of business cases decided, in a split ruling, that the plan was not economically workable.

Presenting its case to the court, SASETRU claims that the plan is sound as proved, among other things, by the support it has received from most of its creditors and also by the fact that the purpose of the legal action is to keep the company in existence and to see that its debts are paid. It is pointed out that the purpose of a bankruptcy process is not necessarily to force the company to stop its operations.

While the case is being decided, the company has been trying to comply with the conditions of the agreement with its creditors, an agreement yet to be approved by the court. For that purpose it has appointed a Board of Directors, chaired by Julio Oyhanarte and consisting of professionals who have nothing to do with the company's shareholders, and has started making contacts with companies likely to bring the required capital and "expertise."

In that context it has signed letters of intent with Spanish companies (among other with Oleaginosos Espanoles S. A.) and with local companies, and has made progress in negotiations with other national and foreign companies. The talks with ASTRA are part of that same policy.

It must be noted that as a result of its closing down, due to the legal proceedings, the company has lost most of its managerial staff. To fill those vacancies will be one of the main purposes of the agreements, due to be formalized as soon as the arrangements with the creditors are approved, between SASETRU and the companies with which it has signed letters of intent defining the terms of cooperation and, in some instances, the amount of working capital they will contribute.

It seems that SASETRU plans to centralize its own management, first of all in the oil and flour plants which have been quite successful since they were created.

8796
CSO: 3348/534

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

LAW OF EXPENDABILITY OPPOSED--Rosario Jorge Boulet, secretary for Public Services in the Office of the President, said in this city that "the government will not initiate any law of expendability for employees of the public administration." He said: "At a time when there is unemployment in the country, a reduction in the number of employees would aggravate the problem. If the recovery continues in the private sector, public employees will probably transfer to that sector since there will be an increased demand for workers." He pointed out that public employees deserve more consideration. He said: "We are trying to change a situation where employees are working under the stress of problems and worries which are bad for the quality of their work. Some of them have been severely affected by the repression," he said, "while others were dismissed under the laws of expendability. They must be reinstated if we want to receive their gratitude." He went on to say that what is needed is to "eliminate the red tape" in the state allocations and to this end the administration is studying the Brazilian experiment which has been quite successful in a short time. [Text] [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Aug 84 p 4] 8796

CSO: 3348/534

SOUTH ANDROS SCENE OF PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITY

Defection of PLP Official

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Lynden Pindling has lost another campaign general in South Andros.

Rev Theophilus Duncombe confirmed today that after 17 years he has quit the PLP, fed up with the type of representation the Prime Minister has given the Kemp's Bay constituency. He is the third general to leave the party in recent months. Rev Mr Duncombe said in a telephone interview this morning that Sir Lynden has done little more than make promises of things that never came to be.

"My leader (the Lord) says be not afraid of them, nor dismayed. The Bible is my battle ground. I have nothing to worry about," Rev Duncombe, of the Church of God faith, said.

Rev Duncombe, who said that the PLP was "born in my lap" (a reference to his age), told The Tribune that except for a high school and telephone system, there is very little the Prime Minister can boast of achieving for his Kemp's Bay constituency in 17 years.

He said that students leaving high school can't find jobs. And the community telephone was taken out of his home after he became discouraged with the PLP. Rev Duncombe said BaTelCo paid him 70 cents a day for opening up his home as

a public phone station.

He also complained that some party supporters are earning a wage and drawing a pension at the same time and hinted that the mail boat service needs investigating.

"I am no more affiliated with them," Rev Duncombe declared. "For 17 years, you think we couldn't have running water through and through the place and investment?"

Rev Duncombe said that "blank" utility poles were erected from Deep Creek to Mars Bay before the 1982 election, but these were only put up "to fool the people."

"They put in the telephone, but where are people going to find money to pay for the phone when there are no jobs?" he wanted to know.

"I made money for BaTelCo hoping that BaTelCo might pay me. They paid me 70 cents a day for putting the community phone in my house."

Rev Duncombe said that he had to build a telephone booth in his yard after it became difficult for his wife to keep the house tidy because of all the traffic passing in and out.

He said that after complaining that the public toilet hadn't worked for some time, he borrowed some plywood and repaired it in April. He said he put in a claim for \$84 dollars for three days of labour. But

the commissioner told him that he still had not received money from Nassau for 1984.

Rev Duncombe said the Commissioner wanted to know what he needed the money for when he didn't have electricity and water bills to pay and when his wife earned \$100. He said he finally got paid, but only after he kept going to the Commissioner.

"The time has come. You never heard of these happenings in the country as they're happening now. It's come under the administration of the PLP. All the children are still leaving the Family Islands to go to Nassau for jobs," he said.

"It's come to a time that

those who set up the programme have to take it down. We, the people, we have to see that it's done. If not, there's gross danger."

Rev Duncombe quoted from the scriptures to support his case. He spoke of Noah and Jerico.

"We have to return to God wholeheartedly and pray!" he said.

"We need justice. I say that from the time this country got in power and got Independence we said goodnight to justice. There is no more justice in this country," he said.

Two other long-time election generals recently left the PLP to join the Opposition FNM.

PLP Campaign 'Preparations'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

THE PLP are preparing for an election - campaigning from house-to-house - in the Prime Minister's Andros constituency and the "people are giving them hell."

This was the information received today from two separate calls from Androsians - one of whom flew to Nassau from the Bluff this morning.

"A team of PLP supporters, headed by Felix Bowe, were in the Bluff this morning going from house-to-house asking for support for the Prime Minister should an election be called," said the native of Bluff.

He said he had overheard a conversation about 10 o'clock this morning between Mrs Mary Oliver of the Bluff, Felix Bowe and one Rolle.

He said Felix Bowe and Rolle had gone to Mrs Oliver's house and told her that they were calling on her "in case an election is called. The Prime Minister is asking for support again."

He said that Bowe explained something about the Government borrowing money from

American fugitive Robert Vesco, proof of which, he claimed, had been produced at the Commission of Inquiry in a document signed by former Finance Minister Carlton Francis. He said Bowe told Mrs Oliver that as a result of that evidence an election might have to be called.

"Mrs Oliver asked Rolle, the fellow with him (Bowe), if he thought an election would be called. Rolle replied: 'No doubt about it, they will have to dissolve Parliament.'

"Mrs Oliver said she didn't see why they had to call an election. She said that whoever was involved and was guilty should step down. But Rolle said: 'No, no, there has to be a general election.'"

"They are getting a very bad reception in the Bluff - I have just come down from there and I saw it with my own eyes this morning - the people talking very bad about the government, especially the Prime Minister," he said.

The second caller told a very similar story about other residents visited. His comment was: "People up here are giving them hell!"

On Monday The Tribune reported that Sir Lynden had lost another campaign general to the Free National Movement. Rev Theophilus Duncombe confirmed that after 17 years he has quit the PLP. He said he is "fed up" with the type of representation given by Prime Minister Pindling in the Kemp's Bay constituency. Mr Duncombe was the third general to defect in recent months - all complaining of the lack of representation given by Sir Lynden.

It was also reported on Saturday, August 11, that Lady Pindling was not pleased with the reception she received from some of the people in the constituency the weekend before. Sir Lynden and Lady Pindling with a party of friends and an FNM team, headed by FNM Leader Kendal Isaacs, were in Andros over the same August 4 weekend. Sir Lynden had gone to the constituency after being cross-examined before the Commission of Inquiry on Friday, August 3.

It is understood that Sir Lynden spent most of that weekend at the Las Palmas hotel, while Lady Pindling visited constituents in the Bluff.

TORCHBEARERS CRITICIZES PLP'S YOUNG LIBERALS

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 15 Aug 84 pp 1, 6

[Text]

THE Torchbearers Association today condemned the "idle chatter and double talk" by the Young Liberals during their recent convention, and suggested that the PLP youth group stop fooling themselves and consider the root causes of the economic and social destruction in the nation.

"For too long the Bahamas has been subjected to the double talk and lies of the PLP," the youth arm of the opposition Free National Movement said in a press statement, four days after the Young Liberals ended their convention.

"Nothing is ever done to seriously combat the economic and social problems of the Bahamas," the Torchbearers said. "All the Young Liberals and their PLP puppet masters ever offer is idle rhetoric."

"The Torchbearers unequivocally condemn the idle chatter and double talk which the Bahamas was subjected to by the Young Liberals," the youth group said.

"We suggest that the Young Liberals stop fooling themselves and begin to seriously consider the root causes of the economic and social destruction that we see going on in the Bahamas today," the statement said.

The Torchbearers said that in the true tradition of PLP politics, the Bahamas was subjected to yet another meaningless display of empty talk,

useless rhetoric and a cowardly refusal to face the real issues which confront the Bahamas today.

It said that while a generation of young Bahamians are being destroyed by unemployment, crime, cocaine and the addiction to free-basing and political victimization, the Young Liberals wasted time and insulted the nation's intelligence by congratulating the "corrupt" Pindling Government on its grand failures.

"As usual, the brainwashed clones of the Young Liberals did not utter a breath of criticism towards the PLP," the Torchbearers said. "No mention was made of the corruption and scandal which is rocking the nation and the conflict of interest which is rotting away the very foundations of Government and social order."

"Instead," the Torchbearers said, "we hear the tired old Grandmaster of Gab - Sir Lynden - rambling on about Kunta Kinte and slavery. What rubbish!"

"The best criticism of PLP rule was offered by Sir Lynden himself when the only thing that he could favourably compare the PLP Government to was slavery," the Torchbearers said. "The Torchbearers note that part of the New Frontier is a new version of Bahamian history. Now we are told that slavery did not end until 1973."

The Torchbearers said that today, 11 years after "PLP freedom," the unemployment rate of over 30 per cent forces young Bahamians into drugs and alcohol abuse, a fact not mentioned by the Young Liberals.

It also noted that the economic stagnation is turning parts of Over-The-Hill and Freeport into slums and ghettos rivalling Trenchtown in Jamaica, while the PLP elite build castles on Prospect Ridge.

Further, the Torchbearers said, Bahamianization is still not being enforced upstairs in certain businesses and the minds of the Bahamian people are enslaved by political victimization, fear and the threat of the police state which Sir Lynden is building.

"Today, Sir Lynden and his cronies in the PLP are being investigated for allegedly being a part of the rape of the Bahamas by drug traffickers," the Torchbearers said. "Today, Sir Lynden himself does not feel free to walk the streets without a squad of bodyguards."

The FNM youth group also said that no blame for this "freedom" was put on the corrupt and bankrupt policies of the PLP by the Young Liberals.

"Instead, Dr Elliston Rahming, the personal aide to the Prime Minister, talked about the types of unemployment," the Torchbearers said. "Why didn't he make some suggestions as to the types of

policies that the PLP could implement to create jobs if they were truly concerned about the problem?"

"Instead, Pindling talked about taking control of the money and of those who control the money...because if you control the money, he said, then you control the country," the Torchbearers stated.

"It was talk like this which first destroyed the economy of the Bahamas. Loose rhetoric about power and control...Sir Lynden should have had time to learn that such talk only leads to poor attitudes on the part of the youth," the Torchbearers said.

"Hearing the Prime Minister talk about taking control of the money is surely an encouragement to the bank robbers and burglars who terrorize our society," the Torchbearers said. "The Prime Minister would deny, of course, that he was encouraging crime, but his words condemn him."

"The Young Liberals also promised to re-address themselves to the problems of the youth." Now, the Torchbearers ask, "can the Young Liberals re-address themselves to what has never been addressed by the PLP in the first place," the Torchbearers asked.

The Torchbearers were commenting on Sir Lynden's keynote address delivered at the second annual Young Liberals' convention, which opened August 11.

Sir Lynden told Young Lib-

erals that the Bahamas is at the crossroads and that only by a process of careful introduction can "we reliably decide what our role will be in determining the future course of our country."

"When I received your invitation to join you here this evening," Sir Lynden told the youth arm of the PLP meeting in the Independence Ballroom of the Cable Beach Hotel convention centre, "I thought for awhile, of what I might share with you that might stimulate your minds, motivate your actions and activate your imaginations. That is the reason why I decided to pose you some questions tonight on what kind of Bahamians you would like. Firstly, Young Liberals, I ask you this: What country have you? Three hundred and fifty years ago something took place. A man, who we have come to know as Kunta Kinte...." Sir Lynden then proceeded to tell them the story of the hardships of slavery...and how only by a miracle the slaves survived.

"Three hundred and fifty years later," said Sir Lynden, "the great-great grandson, Alex Haley, would write a novel all about it, and you tell me, Young Liberals, things are tough and that you don't know how they are going to work out. That is not for the PLP's to say. Our job is to find the ways. Our job is to realize that we are the descendants of men like Kunta Kinte. If they could survive the perils of the day and conquer - so can we do it."

CSO: 3298/1082

BAHAMAS

BRIEFS

MINISTER'S RESIGNATION DENIAL--Minister of Housing and National Insurance Hubert Ingraham has denied persistent reports that he will resign from Cabinet. Mr Ingraham was first questioned about the reports outside the Commission of Inquiry a week ago. He denied that he had resigned. Asked if he had thoughts on resigning, he replied, "I'm not prepared to answer any more questions." Yesterday, Mr Ingraham again denied that he had resigned. Rumours are circulating that Prime Minister Lynden Pindling is under pressure from his Cabinet, and that a big Cabinet shake-up is being planned. It has also been rumoured that an element of the Government has suggested that Minister of Education Darrel Rolle take over the party's leadership, but that Cabinet acted unfavorably to this. Mr Ingraham has also been mentioned as the next leader. None of these rumours could be substantiated. [Text] [Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 16 Aug 84 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1082

PLANALTO AGAIN CONSIDERS POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT ELECTIONS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Aug 84 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas: "Planalto Studies the Return to Direct Elections"]

[Text] President Joao Figueiredo's political coordination group, which meets every day from 0900 in the morning to 1500 in the afternoon, is arriving at the conclusion that despite all the euphoria, theatrics and nonsense, the candidacy of Paulo Maluf is doomed to defeat in the Electoral College against the candidacy of Tancredo Neves. Ministers Leitao de Abreu, Rubem Ludwig, Octavio Medeiros and Danilo Venturini have already been visited personally by the candidate. They exchanged smiles and they made timid professions of faith in the name of unity of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], but lack of common sense is not among their defects. Fools they are not. They perceived, from Saturday to today, that despite the fact that he was victorious in the PDS convention, Paulo Maluf divides more than he unifies. An example are the governors from the PDS, who refused to support Maluf with few exceptions. There we have Deputy Nelson Marchezan, who is ready to leave the leadership of the government in the Chamber and even to dis-associate himself from the party. And we have the liberal dissidents, with their ranks swelled in recent days, as well as the new rebel PDS group in formation from the sectors who voted for Mario Andreazza and were defeated, but who refuse to support the winner.

Thus, the political command of President Joao Figueiredo is faced, obviously in secrecy, with the choice of what to do now before it is too late. Above and beyond the obstacles encountered in unifying the PDS, rises the candidacy of Tancredo Neves backed by all the opposition groups, since it is only because of bad faith or support of Maluf that there is talk that it is impossible for Luis Ignacio da Silva and Leonel Brizola to support the former governor of Minas Gerais. They have already said they are going to support the opposition candidate in the degree that the votes of their legislative blocs are needed to carry him to Planalto Palace.

What can Figueiredo's political command do in view of the possibility of defeat which is evident today? The palace ministers can always believe in the undeniable resilience, capacity for maneuvering and competence of Maluf, but that is not enough. Therefore, the theory is germinating once more in the executive headquarters that only with the reestablishment of direct elections could the picture become confused or responsibilities divided. The president, however, resists the proposition but there are those who assert that within one or two weeks he could be thinking differently. We must wait and see.

What is the advantage for the government of supporting direct elections now? For many it would have to do with its image and its promise of turning the country into a democracy; to return to the people the right to elect their government leaders, whether it is voting for Paulo Maluf or Tancredo Neves, already nominated by their respective parties. For Figueiredo it would mean sharing with the people the responsibility for national destinies for the next 4 years. It would also mean the entry of the president into the gallery of those who worked and achieved for democracy.

In political terms, the option would represent a sort of disengagement from the military system, in this case definitive, capable of preventing the demoralization represented by the election of Tancredo Neves through the spurious mechanisms created for maintaining power by those who now hold it. Nothing more ridiculous than to see a candidate of the opposition taking advantage of their rules of the game to win. With direct elections, the people would decide in the name of the 686 privileged electors, probably deciding the same as they, which means voting for Tancredo Neves. Since yesterday, Governor Leonel Brizola is ineligible because he did not leave the governorship of Rio de Janeiro 5 months before the elections. Since Leonel Brizola was the major obstacle to the support of the government for the immediate reestablishment of direct elections, because of the obvious veto by the military, that problem would also disappear.

This is the talk of hypotheses, cogitations, thoughts and formulations, not facts; just as there is talk in the same vein of good sense, because no one would be against an undeniable national hope, expressed a few months ago by millions of citizens in the public square.

That is what the governors of the PDS, called together by Figueiredo last Monday, made clear as the premise for attempting the unity of the party. They would go for a PDS candidacy, certainly seeking another convention, because while it appears that Maluf will be defeated in indirect elections, he would most certainly lose in direct elections. Other alternatives would be presented, depending on the law and on how the constitution would be reformed, there even being the possibility of the launching of a candidate by other parties.

Returning to the realm of concrete things, however, it does not appear likely that Planalto Palace will promote such a profound change. The apathy of Gen Joao Figueiredo continues, since he just wants time to pass by as quickly as possible. He has lost interest in everything, including presidential succession. Can there be any greater evidence of this than his behavior toward the candidacy of Mario Andreazza? He could have, if he had wanted, made a winner of the minister of interior. All that was needed was his personal involvement, a public recommendation to his ministers, the adoption of an ostensive position. Andreazza behaved correctly, but gave up hope when the votes began to fall into the ballot box at the Convention Palace. He will never allow a rehash of the recent past, point out betrayals or even speak of the lack of support by the president. As far as he is concerned that chapter is closed. It will now be a matter of moving ahead, remaining in the ministry or not, a decision he will make later.

He accepted the result democratically, but he will not become involved in the campaign of Maluf. He is helping his group to ponder and examine the situation, perhaps not supporting the candidacy of the former governor of Sao Paulo, and he recognizes the right of everyone to act as he believes. He will not, however, promote dissidence, just as on the other side of the coin he will not exert any influence to make them support Maluf.

8908

CSO: 3342/146

MOTA WARNS OF PUBLIC PROTESTS IF PRESIDENT LACKS SUPPORT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Aug 84 p 4

[Text] Governor Gonzaga Mota of Ceara admitted yesterday during a discussion with the probationers of the Association of War College Graduates (ADESG), the possibility of a civil war in the country, "in case the future president of the republic does not have the sufficient and necessary popular support. "That is my great fear," said Mota, saying that "Today the concerned and restless masses throw eggs and tomatoes at those who are not supported by them. Who knows whether they will soon be throwing grenades. The danger is precisely there," he continued, "in the dissatisfaction of the people, who face a galloping rate of inflation, an accented rate of unemployment, in addition to a permanent decline in the rate of satisfaction."

Mota emphasized that "We need to bring the government closer to society, since there is now a great alienation. A president without the necessary popular support could place the tranquility of the nation in danger." He pointed out: "The ideal thing would be the holding of direct elections, but since that is not possible, we have to find a candidate who has better popular support, a greater popular acceptance and that is why I advocate the candidacy of former Governor Tancredo Neves." Mota emphasized that "a candidate will only be in a position to administer the country, its economic, social and political structures, if he truly has great popular acceptance." Saying that "enormous masses of people went to the squares asking for direct elections," the governor of Ceara said: "All that movement was made in an orderly and peaceful manner. However, I believe that if a person is elected who does not have popular support, in less than 10 minutes that same peaceful mass could destroy the entire Rio Branco Avenue."

The governor added, "The Brazilian are by nature a peaceful people, thank God. And they are a people who want to live in peace. But we are going through a very difficult period with high inflation rates, unemployment and hunger. All that leaves the population very apprehensive." He warned that if the future president does not have popular acceptance "unfortunately that population could revolt, which, obviously, we do not want or desire because we do not want a fight among Brazilians." The important thing, emphasized Mota, "is that we place the real interests of the Brazilian Nation above the interests of persons and groups."

EMFA HEAD CONFIRMS INTEREST IN AIDING SURINAME

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Aug 84 p 2

[Text] The minister chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), Brig Gen Waldir Vasconcelos, admitted the Brazilian interest in cooperating with Surinam. The brigadier, who was in Rio this weekend visiting the new installations of the Aeronautics Club, of which he is president, said that a delegation of the Surinam Government could go to Brasilia this year continuing the negotiations already initiated for an exchange in the military and other areas.

"Our doors are open for the continuation of that good understanding with Surinam," said the minister.

After emphasizing that cooperation with Surinam is being conducted by Itamaraty in a general way, the minister of the EMFA pointed out that "Brazil is a democratic country while Cuba, for example, is ideologically communist." Therefore, cooperation may be facilitated because of the existence of factors such as physical proximity and the possibility that Brazil may help the neighboring country in its aspiration to develop more in some sectors.

Military Materiel

The rapprochement between Brazil and Surinam was made possible after the Venturini mission last year, when the Brazilian Government sent the minister-chief of the General Secretariat of the National Security Council to that country for the purpose of establishing the initial bases for cooperation in the military, economic and technological fields.

After the Venturini mission, Surinam obtained an air link with Brazil by means of the National Air Postal Service (CAN). Other projects stipulated in this cooperation were arranged with the Brazilian Government.

Surinam has already purchased quartermaster materials (which have no military purposes but which are needed for the everyday life of military organizations) and vehicles. Surinam is also interested in light Brazilian weapons and in training for improving the training of its military forces, which are still being formed. Surinamer officers are already taking courses in Portuguese so as to be able to enroll in Brazilian training schools. These institutions are already receiving officers from various countries in Latin America, as well as from Europe and the United States.

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CSO: 3342/150

GUERREIRO PROPOSES POSSIBLE PROJECTS TO CONGO OFFICIALS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Aug 84 p 24

[Text] Brazzaville--Brazil should install a cellulose plant in the People's Republic of Congo, install a hydroelectric plant, build a smelting unit, expand a port, provide equipment for oil prospecting and build roads, including in the jungle.

Those are the prospects opened by the official visit made by Minister of Foreign Affairs Saraiva Guerreiro initiated yesterday to Brazzaville, a visit which ends today. This weekend the minister goes to Paris where he will hold talks on Monday with Minister of Foreign Affairs Claude Cheysson on the foreign debt of Latin American countries and the halt in the North-South dialogue.

The installation of the cellulose plant in the Congo will require investments on the order of \$580 million and the Brazilian Government is willing to finance \$370 million. A representative of CACEX [Foreign Trade Department], Luiz Paulo de Andrade Goncalves, authorized to hear the Congolese Government's proposals and to make counterproposals, is in Brazzaville with the political support of Itamaraty. Local authorities are asking for 4 years without payments, which is initially considered as being too much by the Brazilian government, but that difficulty can be overcome without any great problems.

Rates of interests will range between 7 and 8.5 percent. The remainder of the capital will be provided by the local government or by an international agency.

The plans for the cellulose plant call for an annual production of 290,000 tons and the initial use of capital which will be the responsibility of Brazil. Three Brazilian companies should participate: Jaakko Pory, Andrade Gutierrez and Klabin. The first one has already made a feasibility study and would install the factory in the region of Point-Noire. The second would be in charge of civil engineering work. The third is examining the possibility of participating with \$50 million. The idea would be to create a mixed Brazilian-Congolese company.

The hydroelectric plant that interests Brazil would be installed on the Lefini River and would be built by the Andrade Gutierrez Company. Costing \$300 million, the plans stipulate the construction of the powerplant, the supply of materials and the installation of a transmission line. There is the possibility of partnering with Yugoslav firms.

The smelting unit would go to another Brazilian company, Tecnometal-Setepla, and would perform smelting, forging and machining. The port of Point Noire would be enlarged by the Mota Fonseca Construction Company. The roads would all be built by the Andrade Gutierrez Company.

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CSO: 3342/150

CACEX COMMENTS ON \$1.2 BILLION JULY TRADE SURPLUS

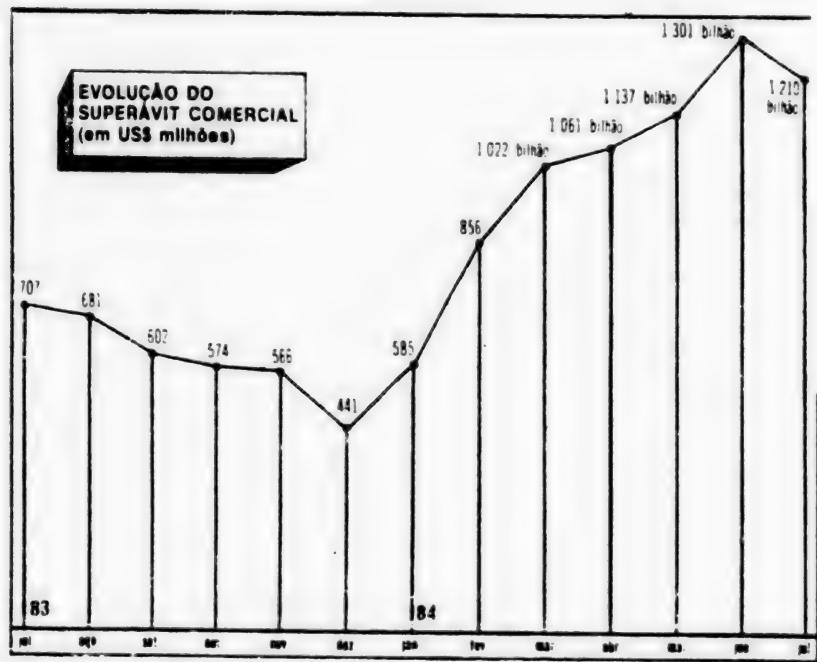
Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 4 Aug 84 p 25

[Text] The director of the Foreign Trade Department [CACEX], Carlos Viacava, announced yesterday in Sao Paulo that the Brazilian trade balance in July showed a surplus of \$1.2 billion (the second largest in history and smaller only than that of last July, when the surplus was \$1.3 billion) due to record exports of \$2,570,000,000, compared to imports of \$1,369,000,000. That made the surplus for this year \$7,227,000,000 so far and for the past 12 months it is \$10,172,000,000. These results were considered "fantastic and above expectations," by the CACEX director, showing that they will be important "in improving the conditions of Brazil in the renegotiation of its foreign debt." Viacava, forecast, however, that surpluses will be smaller in the last quarter, primarily because of the expected increase in imports, although he considers it "a sure thing" that the country will have a surplus this year of \$11 billion "possibly reaching \$12 billion."

According to Viacava, the good progress of the country's trade balance in July is due to record exports of \$2,570,000,000 (in June the country exported \$2,570,000,000), which is an increase in foreign sales of 35 percent compared to July 83. The soybean group (beans, meal and oil), with sales of \$338 million, led exports during that month, exceeding the amount obtained by coffee, which was around \$250 million. The exports of manufactured items (shoes, machinery, boilers, motors and vehicles, was one of the items which increased the most (35.8 percent), obtaining \$1,241,000,000 compared to \$914 million in July 83. Exports of basic products (agricultural and mineral) increased 17.7 percent and those of industrialized products, including semimanufactured, increased 45.1 percent.

Petroluem

The July surplus could have been \$1.4 billion if imports had not increased 16.6 percent, particularly in the case of petroleum, which registered an increase of 32.1 percent in foreign purchases. According to Viacava, the country imported \$1,369,000,000 last July, compared to \$505 million in the same month in 83, although Viacava explains that this was "not due to an increase in domestic consumption, preferring to believe that PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] "is making a reorganization of stocks."



Changes in trade surplus (millions of dollars)

Carlos Viacava said he prefers not to say that this year's surplus will be \$12 billion. "I prefer to be cautious with respect to that number. I can guarantee that we will reach \$11 billion and could reach \$12 billion. What is happening is that imports should increase as of now, primarily because of the release of \$1.5 billion in loans by the Eximbank for the financing of Brazilian imports in the United States. That money has already been made available to Brazilian importers and that should increase our foreign spending. That is why I cannot guarantee that we will obtain \$1 billion in surpluses per month in October, November and December."

Viacava warned, however, that Brazilian exporters must not expect a great increase in foreign sales next year. "Everything indicates that the American economy, one of our main markets, should have a slower growth next year. Therefore, we should export less than this year and if we obtain the same results in 85 that we did in 84, that will be very good."

He also reported that the government has not yet decided whether it will transfer the responsibility for financing exports to private banks, saying that the Central Bank "is not yet convinced that the change will not create problems for exports," although he added that "the tendency is toward a scheduling of interest rates for the sector, establishing a real rate of 10 percent."

8908
CSO: 3342/146

FORECAST FOR CONTINUED UNEMPLOYMENT; ANALYSIS OF 1980 DATA

Harsh Reality

Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 8 Aug 84 p 118

[Text] There is little possibility of a substantial reduction in Brazilian unemployment in the next few years unless the economy once more grows at an average annual rate of 8 percent, a hypothesis considered remote by even the most stubborn defenders of reactivation at any price, as long as the problem of the foreign debt persists. This prediction was presented last week in Rio de Janeiro by the president of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics Foundation [IBGE], Jesse Montello, when he revealed the first results of the National Home Sampling Survey [PNAD] for 1983, a survey which annually enters the intimacy of the homes of thousands of Brazilians. "The Brazilian working-age population is growing at an annual rate which is greater than the economy's potential for creating new jobs," argues Montello.

A picture of this situation was obtained by the pollsters of the IBGE, who found an increase in the number of unemployed persons from 1.8 million in 1982 to 2.3 million last year, an increase of almost 30 percent, which is only now being fought through an increase of income in the rural areas and exports. According to the IBGE, the rate of unemployment in the country would be 4.88 percent with respect to the so-called "economically active population," estimated at 48.3 million Brazilians. Unemployment, however, is certainly greater because the survey accomplished on orders from Montello does not take into account the situation of the underemployed. Since all the efforts to reactivate the economy will not be enough to improve this picture in the short term, the president of the IBGE advocates the adoption of a birth control program preceded by a widespread campaign of explanation. "Families must be able to choose the planning alternative best suited for them," maintains Montello.

The complete results of the PNAD for 1983 should be revealed within 2 weeks. Only through them will it be possible to confirm with greater assurance the improvement in the distribution of income, also announced by Montello last week on the basis of preliminary figures. Its figures show a reduction of 40.86 percent in 1982, and 37.29 percent last year in the number of workers who earned up to a minimum wage, which today is 97,176 cruzeiros.

Picture of Employment

Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 27 Jun 84 pp 73-74

[Text] A picture of Brazil on the eve of the recession shows that the average wage of the worker was 3.4 minimum wages, but half of them did not manage to complete 2 years working for the same company. The best employer was the government. At different levels, federal or local, a state job lasted for an average of more than 9 years. The worst employer was the businessman; on a national average the employees of that sector of the economy were dismissed after 2 years and 4 months. Seventy percent of males received 79 percent of the wages paid per month by the companies of the country. One of the main reasons for this is that in the higher echelons, where more than 15 minimum wages are paid, the presence of women shrinks to less than 10 percent, and it shrinks even further to 29.9 percent at the point where more than 30 minimum wages are paid.

Those are some of the thousands of figures on jobs and employment in Brazil which the Ministry of Labor has just released in the four volumes of RAIS 80, which means Annual Report on Social Information, provided by 902,000 Brazilian companies in 1980 on their 17 million employees. The figures are from 4 years ago--an obsolescence which is aggravated because that was a period of recession and great distortions in the general framework of the economy. However, other than specific items such as wages and unemployment, the other indicators are more informative and dependable, for example, than the figures of the national census for that year. That is so because even though the figures were for a smaller number of people--40 percent of the economically active population of the country--the RAIS was a true X-Ray of the life of companies, provided by the companies themselves, in which are included not only the basic data on each employee such as age, education, time employed and wages, but also the hours worked, type of withholdings on the job or contributions to the Surety Fund. "The same tables and graphs are already available for 1981 and 1982 and will be published shortly," promised Minister of Labor Murillo Macedo.

The distribution of jobs begins by showing the labor force of Sao Paulo compared to seven regions of the country: In that state dwells 21 percent of the population and 35.8 percent of the workers. At the other extreme is the northeast with 29 percent of the population and 13.4 percent of the jobs (table above). Actually, Sao Paulo has 45 percent of the jobs in industry, 28 percent of those in agriculture, 35 percent of those in the service sector, 25 percent of those in public functions--administration at its various national and local levels--and 31 percent of the jobs in business.

The report also shows clearly the role played by the government branches in the country today. They have 17.8 percent of the 17 million workers identified in the survey--a total of 2.9 million persons, who make of the local, state or federal government the largest employer, behind industry and the service sector. The latter two hire 3.9 million persons, 24 percent

of the total, in activities such as transportation, communications, hotels and bars, banks and offices. Prominent in that group is the 17 percent of employees in financial entities--nearly 670,000 employees--and the 5.5 percent in the communications sector, more than 217,000 persons.

Distribution by professions reveals that there are practically no employees with university education in rural jobs (0.3 percent) or in business (2 percent).

In Brasilia, however, the Mecca of university graduates and bureaucrats, the total of trained university graduates rises to 13.4 percent among the 364,134 workers of the city. That number is only one point among many which goes to make up the role of the state in the economy. Reports reveal, for example, that under the item "government" there are 29 percent of the companies in the northeast, 20 percent in the south and 15 percent in Sao Paulo. The ratio of employees is even more remarkable: the public payroll pays 44 percent of the workers in Brasilia, 37 percent in the north, 27 percent in the northeast, 16 percent in Rio and 12 percent in Sao Paulo, the government showing up as the largest or second largest employer in more than two-thirds of the country.

Each company among the 902,000 polled by the RAIS, has an average of 19 employees--but that rate declines from 426 in the state companies to 41 in industry and is only 7 in business. In each 100 of those employed, 70 are men as a general average--but they number 85 in industry compared to 15 women, a ratio which becomes 55 to 45 in state service. Half of those persons, men or women, in any region or activity, received less than two minimum wages in 1980.

That half of the workers contained at the level of two minimum wages--a contingent of 8.3 million persons surveyed--all together received 18 percent of the total wages paid at the end of the month. At the other end of the scale, 20 percent of that money goes to only 5.6 percent of the employees, those who receive more than 10 minimum wages. The average wage of those surveyed was 3.4 minimum wages--3.9 minimum wages for men and 3.4 minimum wages for women.

From January to December 1980 the companies hired 9.6 million persons and dismissed 8.6 million. That small increase in the market coexisted with an average worker rotation of 55 percent, "very significant" according to the Ministry of Labor itself. The study points to a total of 32 percent of dismissed employees with less than a year working for their firm (5.5 million persons) in 1980, and the percentage of those who did not complete 2 years on the job, rose to 49.5. However, there are 11 percent of employees who managed to stay 12 years or more at the same work address. They number 1.8 million, half of whom have to thank the government branches for that stability. There are 51 persons out of each 100 in public jobs, who have been working in their jobs for 12 years or more, something which only two out of every 100 manage to do in business activities.

Unemployment in Sao Paulo

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Aug 84 p 25

[Text] The number of unemployed in the Greater Sao Paulo area last month exceeded 1 million persons, according to preliminary figures of the survey on unemployment made by the DIEESE/Sead Foundation [Interunion Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies] and revealed yesterday by the director of DIEESE, Walter Barelli. According to the survey, of a total of 6.5 million workers who make up the Economically Active Population (PEA) of the region, 16.3 percent were unemployed. Of that total 650,000 did not have any employment during the month, while 260,000 performed minor services and the remaining 130,000 are discouraged (they lost hope of obtaining employment).

According to Walter Barelli, if the number of the PEA who are underemployed is added to this figure, the rate of unemployment reaches one-third of the labor force in the nine municipalities of Greater Sao Paulo. The technical director of DIEESE added that the rate of unemployment in Sao Paulo declined by comparison with some months of 82 and 83, when the rate surpassed 18 percent, while the official figures revealed by the IBGE Foundation and SINE--National Employment System--showed something around 9.4 percent.

That difference, he emphasized, is due to a change in the methodology used in the survey, which defines as unemployed all those who obtained employment during the past month but who do not have a continuous and permanent job, while the IBGE survey considers only those who obtained a job in the past week and had no job during the month as unemployed. As far as those who are discouraged is concerned, (who stopped looking for work), the method used by the IBGE classifies them as inactive, removing them from the PEA for the purposes of the survey. "That," says Barelli, "caused official rates to be quite lower in a period of crisis in which the lines at the doors of the factories were enough to let any person know that the reality was otherwise."

According to the DIEESE survey, the highest rate of unemployment was recorded in 1982, which added to underemployment, exceeded 36 percent of the PEA. On the basis of those figures, continued the economist, it can be said that the situation in the other metropolitan areas of Brazil is no different, quite the contrary, because in Sao Paulo is installed the great majority of companies.

With respect to the industrial recovery which is being seen in the state of Sao Paulo, Barelli said that it is not enough for rehiring the unemployed because it is a partial and timid recovery. We would need to create more than a million new jobs, not only 40,000, as happened during the early months of this half year, he said.

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CSO: 3342/150

1985 OIL IMPORT EXPENDITURES TO DROP TO \$3.9 BILLION

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Aug 84 p 32

[Text] PETROBRAS [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] reported to the IMF that net expenditures by Brazil for oil imports will fall to \$4.46 billion this year and to \$3.97 billion in 1985, compared to \$7.04 billion last year and \$9.68 billion in 1981. According to the Planning Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic, PETROBRAS assured the IMF that domestic petroleum production will increase 41.6 percent this year and 10.4 percent next year, with an average daily production of 480,530 barrels and 530,000 barrels, respectively.

After a peak of a million barrels daily in 1979, PETROBRAS revealed that imports declined to 625,000 this year and will decline to 600,000 barrels per day in 1985 at an average price of \$28.50 per barrel, compared to 757,000 barrels last year. Even with that reduction in foreign purchases, Brazil will maintain a 120-day stock. Although less than the average for the past 2 years, the stock will remain above the level of 90 to 100 days.

The decline in imports has been more rapid than that of consumption, due to the increase in domestic petroleum production.

Throughout this year, Brazil should produce 173 million barrels and import another 228 million. Domestic consumption is estimated at 338 million barrels, with the reexporting of 66 million barrels of petroleum byproducts. For 1985, PETROBRAS projected a domestic consumption of 339 million barrels and the reexport of 73 million barrels for a national production of 193 million and imports of 219 million.

Overall imports should decline from \$8.18 billion in 1983 to \$6.5 billion this year and to \$6.25 billion next year, after reaching \$11.01 billion in 1981. In addition to the reduction in volume, the average price per barrel--\$28.50 in 1984 and 1985--will be below the average of \$29.48 in 1983, \$33.04 in 1982 and \$34.55 in 1981.

BRAZIL: PETROLEUM FIGURES 1977/85

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984*	1984**1985
(millions of barrels per day)									
Domestic production	166	166	171	187	220	268	339	472	480
Imports	834	914	1017	914	869	757	610	625	600
Crude Oil	802	896	1001	872	841	793	727	615	600
Petroleum byproducts	32	18	16	42	29	54	30	25	30
Total Supply	1000	1080	1188	1101	1089	1115	1096	1112	1105
Exports	10	23	23	25	93	113	99	160	180
Crude oil	1	0	0	0	12	22	1	27	0
Petroleum byproducts	9	23	23	25	81	91	98	133	180
Apparent consumption	990	1057	1165	1076	996	1003	997	951	925
Domestic production	61	61	62	68	80	98	124	172	175
Imports	304	334	371	334	317	309	276	234	228
Crude oil	293	327	365	318	307	290	265	224	219
Petroleum byproducts	12	7	6	15	10	20	11	9	9
Total Supplies	365	394	434	402	398	407	400	406	403
Exports	4	8	8	9	34	41	36	59	66
Crude oil	1	0	0	0	4	8	0	10	0
Petroleum byproducts	3	8	8	9	30	33	36	49	66
Apparent consumption	361	386	425	393	364	366	364	347	338
Imports	3814	4196	6435	9845	11006	10120	8197	6656	6500
Crude oil	3602	4064	6264	9372	10604	9566	7822	6428	6242
US/bbl	1231	12.43	17.15	29.46	34.55	33.04	29.48	28.65	28.50
Petroleum byproducts	212	132	171	472	402	554	357	228	258
(Millions of \$US)	17.99	20.08	28.61	30.74	38.60	28.18	32.51	24.92	28.20
Exports	61	149	216	350	1322	1420	1134	1855	2037
Crude oil	7	0	0	0	178	270	13	280	0
US/bbl	13.67	0	0	0	39.99	33.95	35.80	28.33	28.00
Petroleum byproducts	54	149	216	350	1144	1149	1121	1575	2037
US/bbl	16.85	17.55	25.64	38.10	38.76	34.68	31.18	32.36	31.00
Net imports	3753	4048	6219	9494	9648	8701	7045	4801	4463
Crude oil	3395	4064	6264	9372	10426	9296	7809	6148	6242
Petroleum byproducts	158	-17	-45	122	-742	-595	-764	-1347	-1778
Source: PETROBRAS									
* Forecast									
** Revised									

More than a third of the dollars in crude petroleum imports will return to the coffers of the country through the reexports of byproducts next year. This year the trade revenues for petroleum sales abroad already exceed \$2 billion, compared to \$1.42 billion in 1982 and \$1.13 billion last year. In the projections traced by the IMF, PETROBRAS foresees reexports of byproducts of \$2.04 billion this year and \$2.26 billion next year.

With reexports, net expenditures for petroleum will be reduced to \$4.46 billion this year, which will represent only 29.7 percent of overall imports estimated at \$15 billion, according to projections delivered by PETROBRAS to the IMF as seen in the chart.

8908
CSO: 3342/146

COSTS FOR ACHIEVING ENERGY INDEPENDENCE BY 1993 VIEWED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Jul 84 p 47

[Article by Roberto Penteado: "The High Cost of the Energy Plan"]

[Text] In order for Brazil to reach energy independence in 1993 it will be necessary to maintain petroleum consumption at the level of a million barrels per day and any increase above that level must be met by national alternatives. In order to maintain consumption at the proposed level, it will be necessary to spend \$58.8 billion in 10 years and another \$56.7 billion for increasing production of petroleum and reserves, thus arriving at self-sufficiency. Overall, the program is going to cost \$115.5 billion.

The Ministry of Mines and Energy is publishing the "Energy Self-sufficiency Plan" for widespread dissemination and discussion with the public and official agencies. The basis of everything will be, according to the document, a negative rate of increase in petroleum consumption, with increases in consumption of other nonrenewable sources such as natural gas, coal, uranium and shale and renewable sources such as hydroelectricity, sugarcane and wood. Another characteristic is the expectation of a progressive decline in petroleum imports until this product is completely replaced by national production in 1993.

The economic scenario of the self-sufficiency plan, stipulates that the economy will once more grow at a rate of 3 percent in 1985, which will gradually rise to 5.6 percent per year as of 1989, remaining constant until 1993. This scenario, which is the same one used by the technicians of the BNDES [National Economic Development Bank] in a recent prospective study of the Brazilian economy in the next decade, would provide for petroleum imports of 900,000 barrels per day in 1993, in case the plan is not adopted. There are three basic concepts: first, maximum use of alternative sources and forms produced in the country; second, maximum use of electric power with a minimum production of power using petroleum and, finally, increase in production and reserves of petroleum and natural gas.

National energy sources studied are alcohol, whose consumption should grow 9.5 percent until 1993, reaching 19.7 billion liters, which will use an area of 4 million hectares, or 8 percent of the cultivated area in 1980. Sugarcane bagasse, energy forests and charcoal should replace 105,000 barrels

per day of fuel oil in 1993; coal and bitumenous shale another 48,000 barrels per day of petroleum, plus other sources under development.

These "other sources" would not have a large share in the national energy balance, but would be significant on a regional level. Localities far away from large cities could use vegetable oils, solar energy, babacu [coconut oil] peat, biogas and gas from wood, reducing the demand for fossil fuels and also generating local development. The transportation of diesel fuel to Rondonia or Roraima, for example, makes the product so expensive that vegetable oils such as palm nut oil, which cannot be sent to the large cities, could even become competitive.

The \$58.8 billion in investments planned by 1993, aimed at the stabilization of consumption of petroleum byproducts by a million barrels daily, are divided in the following manner: \$48.6 billion in electrical generation--waterpower, nuclear, thermal, and the transmission, distribution of electricity plus installations--\$6.5 billion in the alcohol sector, of which 73 percent would be in distilleries and 27 percent in agricultural production; \$2 billion in the lumber sector, charcoal and reforestation, it being possible that this figure would be reduced with the introduction of a rational management of native forests; \$1 billion in the coal sector, 79 percent being for mining and 21 percent for expanding washers, and \$700,000 in the mining of shale and the production of oil. The expenditures to be made in the development of other resources and in the sector of electricity were not quantified but represent 4 percent of the Domestic Gross Product, a figure compatible with the previous figures which varied between 3 and 3.9 percent.

With respect to the petroleum and natural gas sectors, expenditures of \$56.7 billion were considered, it being admitted that the cost of exploration and production of new deposits would maintain the same characteristics of the period between 1973 and 1983 which will be required for national production to reach 1 million barrels per day for 10 years. The total cost of the program is \$115.5 billion in 10 years, which would generate a savings in foreign credits of around \$56.7 billion during the same period. These resources would increase the surplus forecast in the Brazilian foreign trade balance for 1984/1993 and would allow the allocation of these resources for domestic investments or for the liberalization of imports even more.

Summary of Expenditures in the Energy Sector
Billions U.S. Dollars

State	106
Electricity	48.6
Petroleum and natural gas	56.7
Shale	0.7
Private	9.5
Alcohol	6.5
Wood and charcoal	2
Coal	1
Total	115.5

Petroleum Imports
 (thousands of barrels per day)

	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
(1) Forecast for the economic scenario of reference	620	630	660	668	720	760	790	840	870	900
(2) self-sufficiency scenario	475	336	324	300	260	230	227	100	30	-
(3) Difference	145	294	336	368	460	530	563	740	840	900
(3)=(1)-(2)										
(4) Accumulated savings in foreign credits in billions \$US	1.6	4.8	8.5	12.5	17.6	23.4	29.5	37.6	46.8	56.7

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BRAZIL

BRIEFS

ARMS EXPORTS TRIPLED--Iraq, Libya, Kuwait, Algeria and Saudi Arabia are the main markets for Brazilian arms. The South American country is expected to have tripled its arms exports during the first 5 months of this year as against 1983. Brazil's arms exports make up a substantial contribution toward easing its negative balance of payments situation. [Text] [Bonn WEHRTECHNIK in German Aug 84 pp 88]

STEEL EXPORTS INCREASE--The country's steel exports increased by 9.4 percent between January and July 1984 by comparison with a like period last year, according to figures released yesterday by the National Council for Nonferrous Metals and Steel (CONSIDER) of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. There was a 26.8-percent increase in the generation of foreign credits in the first 7 months of this year by comparison with 1983. Between January and July this year, 2.99 million tons of steel were exported, compared to 2.73 million tons sold in the first 7 months of 1983. Foreign steel sales brought in \$822.5 million in 1984, compared to \$648 million in foreign credits last year. Sales in nonferrous metals in the January-July 1984 period grew by 48.4 percent, going from \$203 million last year to \$301.2 million in the first 7 months of this year. Copper exports went from \$7.3 million to \$22.7 million, reaching a growth of 208.9 percent between January and July 1984 by comparison with the same period last year. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Aug 84 p 23] 8908

CSO: 3342/150

COSTA RICA

BRIEFS

NEW INFORMATION DIRECTOR--Jose Joaquin Loria Ortiz has been appointed director of information and press for the Presidential House effective 13 August 1984. He will be in charge of informational matters for Vice President Armando Arauz, the minister of the presidency, the Government Council, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, and the first lady of the republic. Journalist Marta Guzman, of the Information Ministry, handles informational matters for President Luis Alberto Monge. [Summary] [PA220230 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Aug 84 p 3]

NETHERLANDS LOAN--Eegje Schoo, the Netherlands cooperation and development minister, yesterday announced that a \$10 million loan has been granted to Costa Rica under very favorable terms. The loan will be payable in 30 years at 2.5 percent with a grace period of 8 to 10 years. It is intended to help Costa Rica finance its balance of payments and to import materials necessary for agricultural production. [Summary] [PA110414 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Aug 84]

CSO: 3248/766

NUMEROUS POLITICAL PRISONERS, EXILES REPORTED

Santo Domingo EL NACIONAL DE AHORA in Spanish 20 May 84 p 5-B

[Article by Alvaro Arvelo, Jr.]

[Text] There are 80,000 political prisoners in Cuba.

There are also 1 million Cubans in exile.

These facts were revealed by the Sakharov International Committee, a human rights organization which held its first congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.

A copy of the report was sent to this reporter. It indicated that people are arrested in Cuba because of acts, denunciations and allegations.

Other data in the report included the following:

Fidel Castro said in 1959 that the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista signified the end of political prisoners and exiles.

Under the communist regime, criticisms are considered "conspiracy" in Cuba.

There is torture in the Cuban jails.

One torture used in the regime's prisons consists of the so-called cold and hot "therapy." A person is kept in rooms that are either very hot or very cold and given cold or hot drinks at random intervals, depending on whether the room is cold or hot. This causes serious physical harm to the metabolism and mental harm.

Another torture is to keep the prisoner blindfolded for several days and then suddenly take him out into the bright sunlight without a blindfold.

Another torture is to pluck out his eyebrows.

Political prisoners are locked up with common criminals and psychopaths.

The food is bad.

Food that the political prisoners receive from their relatives is left first to deteriorate from moisture.

Those prisoners receive, for example, one egg a week.

The political prisoners cannot receive Bibles or any other religious book, not to mention political books.

Black political prisoners are treated with a sadistic roughness since they are considered "traitors to the revolution and their race."

There are prisoners about whom nothing is known since they are "walled in"--that is, in isolation cells without any natural light.

The dean of political prisoners, Martin Perez, has been a prisoner in Cuba for 25 years.

There are jails for children and youths from 12 to 17 years of age. They are also known as reeducation camps.

The youths are forced to work up to 12 hours a day, even doing agricultural work.

The youths who "qualify" to receive real brainwashing are taken to centers with odd names: "Rainbow," "The Pencil," "The Pen" and "New Life."

There are special prisons for political prisoners who are considered ideologically dangerous. Their guard is lowered and their defense broken in the high technology prison called "Boniato."

Women are held in four prisons: "Guanajay," "Nuevo Amanecer," "Guanabacoa" and "Baracoa."

The prison terms and conditions are almost the same for the women as the men.

The Cuban jails are now called "Gulags" as Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn calls the concentration camps in the Soviet Union.

The new prison methods were introduced in Cuba by the Soviet Union as part of its domination of the island.

There is a special jail where people involved in the international drug traffic are taken. Those elements are trained to help the government in its plans to operate in international drug traffic for economic and political gains. Once the "penitents" are reeducated, they become secret agents for the regime's machinations in the drug world. This has been denounced and verified.

Those drug prisoners are responsible for carrying out the so-called "diplomatic operations." This means using diplomatic pouches to take drugs to other countries. Cases have been verified in the United States and Chile.

Trustees who are used in drug traffic (some of whom are later eliminated) are operating the Colombia-Bolivia-Cuba-Mexico-United States route after their "release."

At the Sakharov International Committee congress, 11 former political prisoners participated including poet Armando Valladares and journalists Alfredo Izaguirre and Jose Carreno.

The congress was attended by jurists, writers, psychologists, sociologists, psychiatrists, politicians, religious and other Danish specialists.

One of the papers was presented by Mrs Juanita Castro, the sister of the Cuban dictator who has lived in exile in the United States since 1964.

Mrs Castro made several charges about the problem of political prisoners, concluding that her brother's government has made Cuba half-jail and half-concentration camp.

(Mrs Castro visited the Dominican Republic in 1965.)

She stated: "The so-called advances by the dictatorship in the fields of education and health are nothing more than showcase propaganda to exploit the good faith of naive people."

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CSO: 8048/1869

CEMA TALKS IN CONTRAST TO LONDON SUMMIT SEEN BENEFITING LDC'S

Havana VERDE OLIVO in Spanish 28 Jun 84 pp 16-17

[Article by Elsy Fors]

[Text] The ten member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CEMA) reaffirmed their willingness to cooperate with detente and international relations, providing a demonstration of firmness and cohesion, in the Soviet capital.

In their final declaration, titled "The Preservation of Peace and International Economic Cooperation," the participants in the economic summit conference of the CEMA countries blamed Washington for the worsening of the international situation.

The delegations pointed to the behavior of the United States and the crisis caused by the industrialized capitalist countries as two of the principal obstacles to the solution of the serious problems plaguing the world.

Meeting in the historic St George Room of the Great Palace at the Kremlin, the representatives of Bulgaria, Hungary, Vietnam, the German Democratic Republic, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia denounced the dramatic situation in the so-called Third World.

As Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Politburo of the Cuban Communist Party and chief of his country's delegation at the summit conference, remarked, the problems of underdeveloped countries were dealt with at this conference from the standpoint of cooperation for development and national independence.

In this regard, he stressed the contrast between the treatment given these relations by the members of the Socialist Community and that given, for example, at the recent summit conference of the seven capitalist powers in London.

Even French President Francois Mitterrand, at the end of that meeting, recognized that the results of the meeting had been insufficient, especially with respect to the problems of developing countries.

Socialism, said Carlos Rafael Rodriguez in a press interview, has provided the only valid response to developing countries, and according to conference documents, its adherents are willing to do its part to further the growth and progress of developing countries' economies. He explained, however, that the socialists alone cannot solve the problems of the so-called Third World.

The results of the summit, as well as the 38th meeting (a special session) of the Council and the 110th meeting of the CEMA Executive Committee, all held in the Soviet capital from 11 to 16 June, confirmed that socialism is the natural ally of those who favor a new international economic order. This was set forth in a real program of action to improve international economic relations, which was adopted by the meeting.

In this regard, the message sent to the chairman of the conference, Konstantin Chernenko, by the first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, Fidel Castro, was a preview of what would be inscribed in the final documents of the summit meeting days later.

Cuba, "as a country which is building socialism and developing at the same time, salutes the proposal to be ratified by the conference, that advances in socialism be made under the principle of the progressive evening of the economic and social levels of all the countries in our community," stated the Cuban leader.

The economic summit conference will be the socialists' response to the bellicose aims of the United States and its principal allies; it will be "a response of peace and yet firmness," said Fidel Castro in his missive. He also confirmed total support for the special meeting by the entire party, government and nation of Cuba.

The expectations of the lesser developed countries in CEMA were not disappointed. Among the projects given top priority by the Socialist Community for the coming years is contributing to the accelerated development of its lesser developed members, such as Cuba, Vietnam and Mongolia.

Not only were measures approved for the accelerated industrialization of the processing of raw agricultural or mineral products, but concrete steps were also taken to develop the mechanical, electronics, genetic engineering and other industries.

In Cuba's case, as Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stated, even though electronics and computer production is still modest, it has already begun to supply auxiliary equipment, such as promoters, the so-called alpha-numeric displays, and others.

Cuba wants the strengthening of its economy to be a symbol as well of the improvement of multilateral mechanisms in the socialist economies, he said.

At the end of the economic summit conference, during a reception at the Kremlin held in honor of the participants, the secretary general of the Soviet Communist Party and chairman of the meeting, Konstantin Chernenko, affirmed

that the 35-year history of the Socialist Community provided convincing proof of the need for and efficiency of multilateral economic ties.

Referring to the agreements reached, the Soviet head of state reported that long-term directives were formulated to take maximum advantage of integration. He repeated that socialism is the natural ally of those who favor restructuring international economic relations on more just and equitable terms.

Without denying that in the intervening years there may have been errors and downturns, for objective as well as subjective reasons, Chernenko stressed that in the 15 years since the last high-level meeting of the Council, industrial production had doubled in this group of countries, while their capitalist counterparts had raised that indicator by just over a third.

In analyzing the effects of the international situation on the economies of the Socialist Community, the conference noted that the planned development of the national economy and mutual cooperation have made it possible to attenuate substantially the impact of the Western-generated economic crisis, while countering the aggressive trends and actions of the United States and some of its allies in applying economic pressure and discriminating against CEMA countries.

The representatives of the ten member countries decided it would be appropriate to modify the productive structure of the energy sector, attributing more importance to the preferential development of nuclear power, making more rational use of fuel resources, and including new, non-traditional sources of energy.

To supply the Community's population with high-quality products, the member countries decided to strengthen the raw material base, and to reequip and modernize those industrial sectors that can substantially raise prroduction and broaden the supply of these goods.

The conference noted that it would be better to hold these meetings more regularly, at the highest levels of party and state leadership, in order to coordinate the long-term strategic directions of economic development in the member countries of CEMA.

The process of socialist economic integration is now facing the challenge of a higher level of development, and the groundwork for this progress was laid at the summit conference.

Now, during the scientific-technical revolution, the CEMA countries cannot and do not desire to limit to the narrow confines of their own countries the development of a modern industry; such development requires the advantages of cooperation.

This target of critics of socialist economic integration, specialization in production and scientific and technical research, is actually one of the basic factors in strengthening these economies.

For example, while Hungary provides Ikarus buses to the Socialist market, Czechoslovakia is the exclusive manufacturer of streetcars, and the German Democratic Republic is the only country that produces railroad cars.

Similarly, Cuba's productive experience is utilized in supplying sugar to all members of the Community, while it is aided in expanding its industrial capacity in the production of citrus fruits.

The traditions, climate, and transportation, human and mineral resources all influence the Council's recommendations for specialization to the member countries.

Despite the advantages of this kind of coordination in attaining the desired progress, international cooperation is also needed, including the promotion of commercial and economic ties with all states willing to participate on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The economic summit conference constituted an appeal for this kind of cooperation, which can only be carried out in a climate of peace.

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CSO: 3248/739

NARRATION OF FOILED HIJACK ATTEMPT ON DOMESTIC FLIGHT

Havana MONCADA in Spanish Jun 84 pp 33-36

[Article by Julio A. Marti; date of event not given]

[Text] At the expense of his own life Reynaldo Naranjo Leyva saved the lives of all the passengers aboard a Cubana plane from Havana to Cienfuegos. The flight was the target of a barbaric terrorist attack in midair.

I. The AN-24, registration CUT-708 of the Cubana de Aviacion company, was flying over Ensenada de la Broa, already close to its destination at the Cienfuegos airport. The copilot, Reniel Diaz, had occupied the captain's seat in the craft. He was authorized to do so by virtue of his flight hours and the experience he had built up over the years he had worked as an aviation pilot.

Diomedes Matos was the commander of the airliner. Now he was sitting to the right in the cabin, having turned over the controls to his partner. He had faith in him, and wanted to help him make captain soon. So without losing his authority as the ranking officer on board, this morning he was acting as first officer. Reniel would give him technical instructions for the operation of the craft.

Three other individuals were in the control cabin: the flight engineer and two members of the Interior Ministry Escort Section. None imagined that minutes later they would be face to face with death.

II. Forty-six people were traveling on the plane to the southern city. Forty-six plus an extra "club" dressed in olive green, with the metal insignias of the rank of lieutenant on his collar. His name was Jose Fernandez, and he was chief of the airplane escorts at Jose Marti Airport. That day he was on his way to Cienfuegos, where he lived, to enjoy his vacation in the company of his family.

To kill time on the trip, he went to the galley, the stewardess' compartment in back of the plane, and helped serve up the soft drinks in small paper cups that the young woman, Dania Valdes, gave to the passengers.

Near the galley was a middle-aged man who was engrossed in the latest issue of the magazine BOHEMIA. He was returning to the Pearl of the South after a meeting in Havana the previous afternoon. He was one of those calm people, accustomed to traveling to the capital; he was preoccupied with his obligations as manager of the Cienfuegos airport. His name was Reynaldo Naranjo

Leyva, and hours later the passengers on Flight 740 would have a lot to thank him for. He would be dead.

III. The pilot had just informed the control tower at the Cienfuegos airport of the airplane's position. In 15 minutes he expected to be on the taxiway, and he systematically checked the most important indicators on the instrument panel before beginning the operational procedure for landing. He still had some time in the air left, and he kept the craft level until it entered the area of descent, as stipulated for the Havana-Cienfuegos itinerary.

Only guards Francisco Cruz and Peraza were allowed to let their thoughts wander from the complexity of that cabin full of clock dials, switches and levers. They had another mission, and at this very moment, in the passengers' compartment, an opportunity to determine whether they were up to their jobs was forming.

The crew heard two cracks, one right after the other.

Reniel Diaz had fought with the Rebel Army, and the experience of months at war told him immediately what was happening on board.

"What is that . . .?" asked someone.

The copilot responded with a word that was rather disconcerting at 11,000 feet: "Shots," he declared.

IV. From the entrance to the galley Jose Fernandez had a good view of the entire passenger area. While Dania offered refreshments, he counted the passengers who had not yet received them.

The stewardess had gone more than halfway up the aisle when a heavy-set individual jumped out of his seat at her:

"Do what I tell you . . .!" he shouted to the girl, and he grabbed her to try to take her hostage.

"Let me go!" she cried, and slipping out of the assailant's grip she managed to hit him in the face with the edge of her tray.

Dania's unexpected response caused the criminal to hesitate for an instant, which the young woman took advantage of to escape from her captor.

Lt Fernandez spent more time thinking about the outcome of the event than about himself, and dropping what he was doing, he unholstered his gun, loaded a bullet and went to the aid of the victim.

He had barely moved forward when another person rose from his seat and, brandishing a fragmentation grenade, cut off the officer and told him to drop his gun; but the lieutenant was not intimidated, and kept advancing. The terrorist did not stop to think about the savagery of his act, and threw the grenade. Fernandez had the presence of mind to aim and fire at the criminal twice, hitting his target.

The first of the assailants had a short weapon, which Fernandez knew, but he decided to go looking for the explosive device even if that meant turning his back to the aggressor's bullets. When the grenade was thrown, it had missed his head by a few centimeters and bounced off the cargo compartment in back of the airplane. It was there that the officer headed, guided by his selflessness and humanitarian instinct.

Someone had beat him to it. Finding himself near where the grenade had fallen, Reynaldo Naranjo dropped his magazine, jumped with the agility of a lynx and found the grenade at the critical moment.

The officer found him there, gripping the deadly device in his hands and leaning over it as if he wanted to bear the full weight of the tragedy those fragments held. There was an explosion; there were shouts on board; there was the smell of powder and blood; and there was a hero.

V. The detonation shook the craft so strongly that the copilot noticed a sharp jerk in the pedals. "A grenade, . . . and it has knocked out the controls!" he thought. He was convinced of that, although he kept it to himself. Fear on board an aircraft in flight is always dangerous, and if it is transferred to the crew, disaster is not long in coming. It was time to make a decision, and Reniel made it instantly. If everything came out all right, he would ask the captain's forgiveness.

"The plane is mine . . .!" he said, and began to give orders.

"Accelerators on zero!" he told the flight engineer.

That gradually slowed down the craft as it approached land. Two factors required the loss of altitude: one, the supposed rupture of the controls, which had made him decide to try a forced landing in the Zapata Marsh; the other had to do with the cabin pressure. The explosion of the grenade caused the aircraft to depressurize, and from that moment it was imperative for the pilots to keep the plane at a low altitude.

Things had happened so quickly that there was hardly any time to organize one's thoughts. The copilot realized that he had guessed wrong when the descent began and he operated the controls. The controls had not been cut off, as he had initially thought, and that pleased him.

"Captain," he said to Diomedes Matos, "call Boyeros and tell them we are returning due to problems on board!"

In any air emergency, the Jose Marti Airport in Havana is the best place to land because it has better resources. Reniel calculated that the grenade must have killed and injured many people, and he also knew that the capital airport would have medical personnel awaiting the arrival of the aircraft. In addition, those responsible for the serious situation they were now facing would not be able to escape from there.

"Engines on!" he ordered the engineer, and turning to Peraza, he said, "Guard my rear."

The other guard seemed to guess what the copilot had in mind, because when the latter asked him to look through the hole and tell him what was going on in the passenger area, he was already next to the door.

"Don't worry, Captain," said the soldier, "no one is going to take over this airplane!"

On top of the front door a sign lit up: "Faster seat belts." As of that moment, although they were isolated in the cabin, the criminals would have to deal with the crewmembers as well, because all their movements were being monitored, and everytime they tried to stand up and walk down the aisle, the pilot banked suddenly to one side or the other; he would lift the craft's nose and ascend sharply, keeping the terrorists down on the floor hanging on to the seats, without being able to move much.

After 29 minutes of wandering around aimlessly, the plane received this message over the waves from the Jose Marti Airport control tower:

"Cubana 740, authorized to land."

The runway was ahead of them, free of obstacles!

VI. Lt Fernandez was on the floor, a short distance from the galley, where the shock wave from the grenade had sent him. He had a fractured leg, and his belly had been torn open by the fragments. He felt pain, and he put his left hand on his stomach. When he drew it back, he saw his blood-drenched fingers.

Everything seemed to be dancing around his head. He was thirsty; he realized that he was close to death, and he feared losing consciousness. In his right hand he still had his pistol, and he decided to make good use of it as long as he still had the strength to pull the trigger.

Three meters behind him he saw the defenseless body of Reynaldo Naranjo. He recalled that the previous evening they had had a couple of beers together and had made plans to meet again in Cienfuegos during his stay in the city. Fernandez did not want to look at him any more; if he survived, he wanted to remember his old friend smiling and affable, as he had always seen him.

The opaque outline of someone inching toward him put him on guard. He could make out an orange shirt, and he thought it was a passenger whom he had greeted at the airport before boarding the plane. "He will come to my aid," he thought, and let him come closer; but he was wrong.

"That son of a b--- is still alive!" he heard the individual say, and then he heard the shots. The officer returned their fire, and hit his target once again. Now he had wounded the other terrorist.

But the one further away shouted to his buddy, "Throw the other grenade!" An object fell to one side of the officer. He thought that it was all over now, and when he grabbed the object he was surprised to see it was a shoe. The criminals also valued their lives, fortunately, and they knew that a second explosion on board would be the end.

When the airliner touched down, the hijackers managed to open the exit door and jump out of the aircraft, which was still moving toward the taxiway. Below, officials were waiting for them, to put an end to their insane adventure.

Three State Security officers were the first to board the plane; but before reaching the galley they stopped cold. A blind man, bleeding from the belly, warned them weakly but firmly not to take another step.

"Fernandez, we're your comrades! You are on Cuban soil!" they told him, and then the pistol dropped from the wounded man's hand.

Seconds later, Jose Fernandez was aware that he was being placed in an ambulance, and his ears heard the screaming of a siren moving away from him as he lost consciousness. He also managed to make out a man dressed in white who was unbuttoning his shirt, and he heard one thing: "...You'll live..."

Then he lay back and was lost in sleep.

8926
CSO: 3248/739

TENETS OF NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENT DETAILED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 8 Jul 84 p 10

[Text]

The MAURICE BISHOP PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT (MBPM) was launched at Victoria, St. Mark's, Grenada, on Sunday 27th May 1984, at a rally marking the 14th Annual Celebration of African Liberation Day in Grenada, the 150th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery, and in honour of the 40th birthday of Maurice Bishop.

This new political movement has been named in honour of Maurice Bishop, as he provided the most outstanding leadership to our nation and was murdered defending the cause of the freedom of our people.

MBPM pledges to continue the struggle to bring bread, peace and justice to the poor and working people; democratic and progressive forces; and to the nation as a whole.

In the immediate period, a Steering Committee with Kenrick Radix as Chairman, has been set up to co-ordinate the activities of the Party.

The rise of counter-revolution of the Coard clique in October of 1983, and the murder of Maurice Bishop and other outstanding leaders, led to the United States invasion and occupation of the sacred soil of Grenada, and the loss of our sovereignty and independence.

As a party of patriots, and as the descendants of Fedon, Butler and Marryshow, MBPM commits itself to join with the people to redeem our nation's honour and

independence. We will make sure that the hard won democratic gains made by our people are never surrendered.

The unacceptable levels of unemployment, hunger, poverty and genuine hardship today, clearly expose the bankruptcy of those who exercise temporary authority and their allies.

In the spirit of Maurice Bishop and the revolutionary heroes and martyrs of our history; conscious of the command of history; dedicated in the service of our people; we issue an urgent call to all our citizens at home and abroad to rededicate ourselves in the just and noble cause of building a truly free, democratic and independent country. We call also for the support, solidarity and friendship of the peoples of the Caribbean, the non-aligned nations and all the world.

The strength of our nation lies in the consciousness, unity and organization of its people. Maurice Bishop, the man and his ideals, best symbolized this. He is the rock upon which we pledge to build our nation's future.

FORWARD ON OUR FEET;
NOT ON OUR KNEES;
LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF MAURICE
BISHOP AND THE MARTYRS AND
HEROES OF THE GRENADIAN PEOPLE!

Saint George's, 30th May, 1984

CSO: 3200/53

MBPM'S RADIX DISCUSSES CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 8 Jul 84 p 10

[Article by Felix Pita Astudillo: "Grenada: Recovering from Trauma"]

[Text]

THIS MAN in his mid-40s has worked intensely and with dedication in his vocation of revolutionary. In strictly academic terms he is a lawyer, but the finest years of his youth and intellectual maturity have been selflessly given over to the profession which Che Guevara called "the highest condition of the human being."

This indefatigable servant of his people, who speaks below for *Granma Weekly Review* readers in an exclusive interview, was an early and steadfast comrade of the late Maurice Bishop. He was jailed; won power; was the first ambassador to the UN of Grenada's young revolution and there he delivered the message of his liberated people; he served as attorney general and minister of justice, among other leading state positions; he took to the streets leading the masses who opposed the ambitious and extremist putsch carried out by Bernard Coard and his group; he was again jailed by that band of killers; then he was arrested by the U.S. occupation forces, questioned and denigrated by being registered as No. 1199 at the concentration camp set up by the invaders; he was released and started to work tirelessly to regroup the revolutionary fighters who survived the period of assassinations.

On May 27, speaking to an estimated 15 000 people, he and his comrades in struggle announced the founding of a new political party to lead the suffering people under occupation. The battle was to continue: like a Phoenix rising from the bloodied ashes that were the work of the putschists and then the invaders, the example of the murdered leader inspired and gave life to the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

It is Kenrick Radix, now head of the Steering Committee of the MBPM, who talks to us about the situation in Grenada.

The first question had to do with the elections in Grenada and the presidential elections in the United States. The Western, chiefly U.S. and British, press has repeatedly said that the Reagan

administration wants elections in Grenada to be held before those in the United States so that a "legitimate" government will be functioning in St. George's when U.S. voters go to the polls in November 1984. What is the connection between the two elections?

Radix started by recalling that in recent years in the Caribbean the United States had been actively "seeking to reimpose a new hegemony over the area, particularly in the light of the withdrawal of the British from the region."

"In 1981," he said, "there was a meeting in London in which all these elements were analyzed. The British, the French, the Dutch and the Americans agreed that the United States would play a more active part in the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean. As a consequence thereon, we saw the buildup of U.S. military activities in the region, particularly military maneuvers, as well as the launching of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), which was to underpin these developments."

Radix described U.S. efforts at the time to change the policy of the governments in St. Lucia and Dominica and Washington's intervention in the internal affairs of those two countries in order to establish regimes "more favorable to the United States' interests and hegemony."

"In fact, the Grenadian Revolution remained as the fundamental thorn in the flesh of the United States, as it served as an example of revolutionary developments, of unity of the people, of economic and social benefits, as well as putting power into the hands of people themselves."

The rest is well known history: splits in the ruling party ("no doubt spurred by imperialist activity and covert action," Radix emphasized), the disastrous collapse of the Revolution in Grenada, and the United States "seizing" and pouncing upon the opportunity to invade Grenada, the smallest independent country in our hemisphere, using illegal pretexts for the intervention, overwhelming the country by force of arms and, in fact, reimposing the neocolonial regime upon the people of the country."

Radix feels that a review of the foreign policy disasters of the United States shows how its hegemonic policy has been a miserable failure, "although Reagan continues to talk about victories in order to go to the U.S. electorate in November.

"Therefore, it is no accident that Reagan and his advisers in the White House were analyzing where they could get the cheapest victory in order to project their policies as successful. By its size, Grenada was the soft underbelly of the world progressive movement.

"But the one that appeared to be a cheap victory has turned out to be a very hollow victory of Goliath, a giant taking fundamental advantage of people who were former slaves, people who were just beginning to be acquainted with modern weaponry and had no really fundamental means of defending themselves; of a people who were thousands and millions of times economically less developed than one of the most developed economies in the world."

Radix thought for a moment and then went on:

"For a bully to overcome a young child is a victory that is temporarily a setback, because little children have the capacity of growing and learning from experience, and one day will deal a blow to the bully, notwithstanding the fact of the size, but collectively in the world...."

Radix' eyes seemed to be saying, "What kind of a victory can they claim?" as he reviewed the eight months that have transpired since the invasion:

"There is no victory, because our people for the first time in four and a half years are really hungry. Unemployment is something of 40 percent as opposed to a previous 12 percent. That is no victory. It is no victory to be hungry! It is no victory to be out of work! There is no victory in not having medical and dental facilities, which were there prior to the invasion. It is no victory for a people to experience the dismantling of all the social and economic programs. Housing is in short supply. Electricity supplies are short and short still; water supplies are short and short still. The right of education is not guaranteed as it had been before...."

Although facts indicate the contrary, Radix feels "Reagan needs a projected victory. In the event of the elections which are scheduled in October in Grenada, it is clear that these elections will be used to project a victory for Reagan and his policies. Therefore, I suspect these elections will be held sometime before the American presidential elections."

This paved the way for our second question: the elections in Grenada and the conditions under which, in his opinion, they will be held, the forces now active on the political scene and the morale of the people who, according to recent surveys, show signs of electoral apathy.

IMPERIALISM WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE TRUE EXPRESSION OF THE GRENADIAN PEOPLE

Radix reviewed the issue beginning with the notorious Eric Gairy, the despot obsessed with UFOs and head of the Mongoose gang, who has now returned to the island.

"In our view, the U.S. is supporting him, as in fact Gairy's return has been facilitated by the American invasion. It is also clear that he is wanted for crimes he had committed during the years of the repression, but the puppet government that has been installed by the U.S. has not, up to this date, brought any proceedings in the courts of the country against him. Objectively, therefore, on that evidence, he is in alliance with imperialist interests in Grenada.

"On the other hand, the U.S. is financing and supporting what they call the 'centrist parties' which they hope will give legitimacy for the invasion of Grenada and serve and promote the interests of imperialism. We are in no doubt whatsoever that imperialism will do everything possible to prevent the true expression of the Grenadian people by trying to create a climate of anticommunist and antiprogressive hysteria around the Revolution and its outstanding leader, Maurice Bishop."

The leader of the MBPM stressed that the invaders have set about to decrease ideological awareness in Grenadian society and "within this context must be seen the psychological operation which had been conducted by the invaders, in which they tried to paint a picture of loss of hope and of loss of confidence, a picture that really Maurice Bishop and others were criminals, and to attack his memory, etc., so that the people will lose confidence in themselves and the future.

"Also we can see the CIA activities in support of these parties by numerous writings on the wall around the country, with anticommunist slogans like 'No Jewel communists again,' 'Jewel has killed our children,' 'No to Jewel criminal murderers' and others linking the Party and its left orientation with murder.

"On the other hand, they have been imposing censorship, controlling the news and information, establishing a radio station, particularly censoring the information of all the world condemnation of the invasion; controlling the media and behaving in such a way that they are conditioning the people into a subservient pro-imperialist attitude."

Radix explained that the oppressors want to promote a climate of servility and dependency so as to create a feeling of fatalism in the population and have them turn only to the United States to solve their problems.

Asked about the centrist parties and the likelihood of their unity in the much-talked-of Team for Togetherness, known as TNT, Radix told us:

"In fact TNT has exploded without getting off the launching pad. In a historical sense, it was an attempt by the U.S. to develop a 'center' which would replace the left political dominance of the people of the country. They tried to get the All Grenada National Party, the New Party, the New Democratic Party (in which they put great faith and emphasis) and also some former Gairy elements who have the Christian Social Democratic Party, into a coalition, all subservient to the U.S. I don't know all the insides of this matter, but I know that TNT has blown up."

Radix got back on the subject of the coming elections in Grenada. "So these elections will be held in a climate in which people are shunned from the political system, there having been a

fundamental collapse of the Revolution in which they had so much trust and confidence. Nonetheless, the progressive forces in the country continue to struggle, continue to assert the right of our people to true independence and democracy. For the young democratic and progressive people of the country, the continued occupation of Grenada violates our sovereignty, prevents freedom of expression, free association of people, against the backdrop of the guns of imperialism."

But the task is very complex because people are traumatized by the events: a revolution in which they had full confidence and to which they pledged their loyalty, commitment and spirit of sacrifice, collapsed as a result of internal problems fanned by imperialism. Now this hope for the future must be reinstilled in the people.

"We are beginning that process," Radix asserted. "We have launched a manifesto of our Party. This program calls for not permitting the presence of any foreign forces in our country, forces which will compromise our independence, our non-alignment and security. We believe that as a nation we have the right to control our lives and destiny.

"So, our programmatic platform is to reassert our independence with all the obligations and duties incumbent in that fact; to continue our economic and social programs and also to continue relations with countries of different social systems."

Radix added:

"The manifesto also calls for an investigation of the circumstances leading to the assassination of Bishop and others, a public inquiry; also for the delivery by the U.S. of the remains of Comrade Bishop and others, so that we can afford them a traditional funeral, a place of honor and respect in our country; a demand to end the harsh economic conditions of unemployment imposed by the U.S. in its attempt to exercise hegemony and dependence."

"At the same time, we have launched a newspaper of our own, *Indies Times*, to articulate the real views of the people and to express democratic values within the country. We have been successful in a very short time. Nonetheless, the Americans moved through the Interim Council to close down the paper. But we have managed to reopen it again, and to carry the message of hope for the freedom of our people."

Radix added that through various channels with which they maintain contact, the invaders have let it be known that "revolutionaries like George Louison, myself and others are unacceptable to the United States."

"At the end of last month, just before leaving Grenada," he continued, "a hand grenade exploded outside my home in the night. Clearly, that can be interpreted as a sign of warning to the Maurice Bishop Patriotic Movement.

"But with the launching of our Party and with the reopening of our newspaper, we will look forward to expressing and developing our people's self-confidence, hope and determination to blaze a new chapter in the affairs of our nation. This will not be easy, by any means, but it will be done."

"As you know," Radix went on, "the U.S. government is committing its military forces in the English-speaking Caribbean for the first

time in history. They have also the idea of a regional army, for which they are prepared to give 100 million dollars, whereas economic assistance only runs into a few million dollars. In the light of these grave difficulties, our Party is asking all democratic and progressive forces everywhere for international solidarity and support as we seek to embark once again on underpinning the legitimate struggle of the people of our country."

THE U.S. EMBASSY ISSUES THE ORDERS

Then we discussed the illegitimate nature of the invasion and the long and unjustified stay of foreign troops. Attorney Radix commented:

"The U.S., without the consent, acquiescence or otherwise of the Grenadian people, ruptured our relations with Cuba, expelled the Cubans and also the Libyans, the Soviets, the Western Europeans (technicians, doctors, nurses). By whose authority and in whose name? On whose behalf, under what instructions other than their geopolitical arrogance and racism. Racism is a very important element in analyzing this, because in the same way that they have with impunity invaded tiny Grenada, the international community could in fact — on using the same rationale — tell them to invade South Africa, where millions of black people are being every day killed by racists and economically exploited by racists and apartheid. Therefore, we see racism in the U.S. government as a paramount concern."

"What the U.S. wants," he emphasized, "is to exercise hegemony and domination and not to rescue anybody."

Radix pointed out that "in Grenada there have been no serious military events or any confrontations since sometime in November last year. Why, then, the presence of 350 U.S. troops, which have merely changed their uniforms from combat troops to so-called military police, together with the cover provided by Barbados, Jamaica and some other small territories? The latter do nothing, really; they just accompany U.S. soldiers on the orders that are issued from the U.S. embassy."

Then we asked Radix about the people's feelings toward the invaders. We asked him to explain the initial reports, which many of us found puzzling, of people welcoming the invaders. Had that feeling persisted, we asked.

"Undoubtedly it is true that the people of Grenada as a whole felt a sense of immediate relief that they had been rid of the fascist Coard dictatorship, masked under the guise of the Revolutionary Military Council, which had no basis of support within the society. At every moment, at every turn, while the coup d'état was on its way, the people demonstrated against the unacceptable imposition of Coard and his gang."

Radix explained that Coard's fascist band violated three cardinal rules of the Revolution: first, the People's Revolutionary Army, under the control of a handful of Coard's followers, fired on the people; second, they murdered the leadership of the Revolution and foremost leader Maurice Bishop, who had "social chemistry" with the masses; and third, they held all citizens prisoner for four days and nights with the cur-

few, thereby creating a climate of psychological terror.

"Of course," Radix remarked, "if invaders had come from outer space, the people would have been relieved. This is not so today.

"The early pictures that showed smiling people, waving hands, welcoming the invaders are to be seen in that psychological climate that existed then. As a matter of fact, this doesn't exist anymore, it's a thing of the past, as people feel the occupation and control, the unemployment, the lack of social facilities, the sense of despair and collapse, the lack of true democracy.

"Over 3000 people were detained in U.S. military prisons or war camps that had been established on the island, in which they were processed and documented, and being told that they would not engage in any politics in the country. I was processed, my number was 1199. They have been trying to recruit some of the arrested — ex-army people — to work for the CIA. Many people are under surveillance, and so they're trying to create a feeling of distrust."

According to Radix' description, people feel that the Americans are overstaying their welcome. Some have put it this way: it is a sort of domestic family matter, where you call the police, and the next thing you know is that the police are remaining for ever and ever. That is the kind of feeling the people have nowadays.

"And also there have been a number of confrontations between the occupying troops and the people at the grass-roots level. Some people have been shot at and killed, and there have not been arrests of the people concerned. There have been incidents of fights and beatings by the occupying troops, and in fact they have used the court process not to bring the victim to justice but to prosecute him."

THE PEOPLE ARE CALLING FOR REVOLUTIONARY JUSTICE

Then the leader of the MBPM discussed one of the most gripping issues in Grenada: the trial of Bernard Coard and his group which hasn't even started. Radix commented:

"I have seen some reports which said that, using the trial against Coard and his gang, the U.S. will try to transform Maurice Bishop from the most popular leader he was into such discredit that it would really be Maurice Bishop who would be going on trial. What I can tell you is that the U.S. has had to reverse this anti-Bishop propaganda, because the people will not tolerate it.

"For the people of the country, perhaps the most fundamental issue is bringing to justice all of those who are responsible for the assassination of Bishop and other leaders. The trial has not yet begun because those responsible who are charged of murdering Maurice Bishop and others are going through the pretrial stages and there have been delays as a result of legal maneuvers. On the other hand, they have been trying to get some support for legal representation. In my private view, they will try to delay the trial as long as possible in order to buy time to get a better climate for themselves. But the people are calling for revolutionary justice."

The next question was about the delay or inertia of the U.S. government in granting the aid promised to help reestablish the Grenadian economy following military intervention. The Western press itself makes frequent mention of the "imminent bankruptcy" and "collapse of public services" in its reports about the island. Radix gave us his views on the matter:

"It is not surprising that in spite of all the promises of economic assistance, they have dismantled the whole economy and created the cycle of dependence of which I spoke earlier. Even their allies within Grenada — the commercial sector — have expressed their disappointment in the lack of any injection of U.S. money to prop up the economy of the country. They have promised much and have done little.

"They have announced 75 million dollars in economic assistance to Grenada. In the first days, they announced, I think, around 30 million, but the figure was later cut down to 15 million, divided up into 15 million for military assistance, paying for the foreign occupation of the country; from the other 15 million, so far just a few thousand dollars have been disbursed."

I interrupted at this point to ask about charges Nicholas Braithwaite, head of the Interim Council, had made against Radix, George Louison and other leaders of the MBPM, implicating them in "acts of sabotage" and "secret conspiratorial meetings," along with "financial links" to other powers. These reports, I said, had appeared in at least two British dailies, the *Guardian* and the *Daily Telegraph*, and tried to present the collapse of vital public services as the result of a leftist plot against the interim authorities. With evident indignation Radix said:

"This is the first time that I'm hearing these accusations. It seems that the foreign media in our country have more access to and information about the life and work of the so-called Interim Council than we have in Grenada. I'm surprised to hear that they have accused us of these conspiracies, because we live in the country and none of the police or anybody like that have ever made any accusation of that sort against us.

"We do have meetings; they are not secret and they concern the national life of our country. And it is our right to have them, and no one will stop us from having them. As to the question of sabotage, I haven't heard of any sabotage in the country.

"On the question of having enormous funds, which again is new for me, I have been on a number of visits to several countries of the world, as is my right to do. I have had the opportunity to express the deep appreciation of solidarity which our people has had everywhere and in the U.S. itself, and, of course, to request material assistance to help our Foundation.

"These are all natural rights which we have, which we will enforce to eliminate the presence of foreign forces from our country to redeem our national independence, and there is nothing secret or subversive in these contacts. If there is any sabotage at all, it is against the lack of free expression and liberty of the citizens of our country.

"If Mr. Nicholas Braithwaite has any charges of a criminal nature against me or any party

within the MBPM, I challenge him to level these charges not in the foreign press, but inside our country, and we will deal with him and his charges."

We asked Kenrick Radix if he wanted to add anything for GWR readers.

"Indeed. We have also to say something of the final communiqué of the Consultative Meeting of Anti-Imperialist Organizations of the Caribbean and Central America, which was held in Havana June 11-13. This meeting of 29 parties denounced the assassination of Maurice Bishop, stating clearly that it paved the way for the U.S. invasion and upholding the idea that no crime can be committed in the name of revolution. All of them have extended their solidarity and support to the Grenadian people, confident of the fact that they will arise and develop again to be masters of their own future.

WE WILL ARISE AGAIN ONE DAY TO SEIZE OUR OWN FUTURE

"Also, I think I could not, in an interview of this sort, not take the opportunity to express, on behalf of the entire people of Grenada, the fundamental assistance, both in material, human, economic and moral support, given by Cuba to the Grenadian people during the life of our

Revolution, as well as the historic joining together of the blood of those patriotic Grenadians who fought resisting the U.S. invasion, and, of course, the Cuban construction workers who gave their lives defending the honor of Cuba and of our country at a very difficult time in Grenada's history.

"The attempted irruption by the U.S. against our country will not ever darken the memory that our people has of the fraternal assistance, as I said, written today in blood, cementing our people and their Revolutions. In extending our condolences to the relatives and families of the Cuban workers, we want to let them know that the spirit of Maurice Bishop lives among us, that we will rise again one day to seize our own future and to continue the internationalism for which Maurice Bishop and other revolutionaries were renowned.

"So, I extend, on behalf of all the people of Grenada, and in the name of Maurice Bishop and other revolutionaries in particular, our warm and fraternal greetings to the president, Fidel Castro, to the organs of the Party and the state, as well as to the people of Cuba, who have, in a very special way, supported us in the moments of our glory, and extended their revolutionary condolences to us in our bitter moments of setbacks."

CSO: 3200/53

RIFTS IN MAJOR PARTIES SEEN ALTERING TWO-PARTY SYSTEM

WA231335 Rome IPS in English 20 Aug 84

[Article by Manuel Torres]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 20 Aug (IPS)—Honduras' main two political parties, the Liberals and the Nationals, have undergone major divisions in recent years which may end their traditional dominance of the country's political scene. Both parties were created at the end of the 1800's. The National Party was the representative of the country's most conservative groups, and the Liberal Party formed to promote free enterprise.

The competition between the two parties dominated Honduran political life for much of this century, until the armed forces seized power in a 1957 coup.

Since then, the military has intervened frequently to depose elected governments.

For many observers here, any ideological definitions which may have originally divided the two main parties have now faded away.

"At present there are no basic ideological differences between the Liberals and the Nationals," said Efrain Diaz Arrivillaga, a legislator who is president of the Christian Democratic Party.

"Both make up the large conservative party of Honduras," he added.

Many political analysts here feel that the two parties have abandoned their own initiative and are seeking political support from the armed forces and the U.S. Government, which sees Honduras as a strategic ally in Central America.

Social Democratic leader Jorge Arturo Reina maintains that the Liberal and National Parties are so caught up in the struggle for power that they are deaf to the need for changes demanded by the Central American crisis.

But judging from the last election, Honduras is still a two-party country.

The Liberals and Nationals together took 96 percent of the vote in November 1981, with the Christian Democrats and the Innovation and Unity Party (PINU) sharing the remainder.

Their hold on voters may be slipping, however. Critics note that since 1982, both parties have suffered serious internal problems, with dissident factions splitting off and seeking support from the lower- and middle-income groups which are hard hit by the current economic recession.

The ruling Liberal Party is now divided into four factions--the Podistas, who dominate the party, the Liberal Alliance of the People (ALIPO), the Azconista Movement and the Liberal Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MLIDER).

President Roberto Suazo Cordova heads the Rodista faction, which takes its name from Modesto Rodas, a long-time party boss who died in the early 1980's.

CSO: 3200/45

HONDURAS

CP LEADER PADILLA RUSH EXTENDS GREETINGS TO ROMANIA'S CEAUSESCU

AU051406 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 2 Sep 84 p 4

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general.

Dear Comrades,

I extend to you comradely greetings--in the spirit of the trust that has always characterized our relations--on victory of the 40th anniversary of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution for social and national liberation, Romania's National Day.

Dear Comrade Ceausescu, I hope that we will soon be able to meet personally, in order to acquaint myself with the great progress made by Romania, under your wise leadership, in the construction of developed socialism and to brief you about the Honduran people's struggle for their national emancipation.

With sentiments of freindship and regard,

R. Padilla Rush, general secretary of the Communist Party of Honduras.

CSO: 2700/261

MEXICO

BRIEFS

FRG GREENS VISIT SOUTH--Mexico City, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)--Members of the FRG opposition party have said here that the West German Government is responsible for the critical situation in Latin America because it has supplied the region's military dictators with weapons. Gunther Hopfenmuller and Anja Kuhr members of the Executive Committee of the West German Green Party pointed out that the migration of Guatemalan peasants to Mexico is clearly the product of government repression in that country. With the authorization of the Mexican Government the German politicians visited refugee camps in Chiapas and Campeche to learn about the situation of Guatemalans who have emigrated to Mexico because of repression in that country. Hopfenmuller and Kuhr expressed interest in promoting international assistance for the support of efforts being made in Mexico to take care of the refugees. [Excerpts] [FL311434 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2000 GMT 30 Aug 84]

CSO: 3248/764

PRESSURE ON OSBORNE TO RESIGN INTENSIFIES

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Aug 84 p 7

[Text]

PLYMOUTH, Aug. 2 (AP)

Chief Minister John Osborne, under mounting pressure to resign or call elections, is facing his second "no confidence" vote in three weeks over his involvement in a Miami legal battle between two U.S. companies who want to develop Montserrat's Little Bay.

Opposition leader P. Austin Bramble said at a public meeting here Wednesday night that in his "no confidence" motion he'll accuse Osborne of lying to Parliament.

Osborne had assured Parliament he wasn't personally involved in the dispute between Rozah Enterprises Co. and the Perini Corp. over the Little Bay development rights. The multimillion-dollar plans call for building a yacht marina, hotel, casino and a bank.

Austin, whose July 16 "no confidence" motion was defeated by a 5-2 margin, has since won the support of Parliamentarian David S. Brandt.

Brandt resigned from the ruling People's Liberation Movement in a July 30 letter to Osborne. The Chief Minister's party still holds four seats in the seven-seat Parliament.

In his letter, Brandt said "irrefragable evidence has emerged which shows conclusively that you lied to your colleagues on the Rozah-Perini affair."

Osborne went on the Government-owned radio station today to assure the

people his involvement in the Little Bay negotiations is "honest and above board." He called Brandt a "mole" for the opposition who had no choice but to resign.

At issue is an affidavit filed in U.S. federal court in which Osborne said Rozah enterprise, he was then approached by Perini and became convinced that because Perini was a much larger enterprise, it would be better qualified for the project.

Perini's Attorney, Robert Scott, "said something about payments to be made to me and my Government as opposed to paying (Rozah Enterprises)," Osborne said.

Scott reacted angrily in a letter to the Chief Minister. "I find it absolutely unbelievable that you knowingly signed your name to paper containing such outrageously false, personally defamatory and totally untrue statements," Scott wrote.

Both the affidavit and Scott's letter were published by the *Montserrat Times* newspaper.

According to court records, the dispute between Rozah and Perini came after Rozah, having made the tentative agreement with Montserrat, approached Perini about helping provide financial backing. Rozah claims there was an agreement that Perini wouldn't take overes had negotiated an agreement to develop Little Bay, subject to ratification by Montserrat's Executive Council.

CSO: 3298/1075

CRIMINAL-'POLITICAL' LEADER SILVERIO BROWN SHOT DEAD

Political 'Commando Group' Member

PA082228 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Aug 84 pp 28, 17

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Excerpts] A very well-organized group that operated with quite sophisticated weapons, radio equipment, and military uniforms was broken up in the past 72 hours. The operation, carried out by the Defense Forces National Department of Investigation (DENI), has led to one casualty, that of Silverio Alfonso Brown Turton, 36-year-old leader of the group.

DENI agents arrested Silverio Brown on 4 August in the El Chorrillo neighborhood and placed him under the jurisdiction of the Assistant Attorney General's Office headed by Bayardo Ortega. After questioning Brown, it was clear that he had a hideout near Cocoli, in the Canal area near the "Horoko Club," in a warehouse or building that has reverted to Panama and is known as "the Bunker."

At least 22 people are under arrest as a result of Brown's arrest. All of them have a long record of criminal actions. According to DENI Inspector Domitilo Cordova, "the members of the group had a paramilitary organization and were included in a payroll paid by Silverio Brown that amounted to approximately 5,600 balboas a month."

At least two members of the band were publicly involved in political party activities in the recently concluded elections.

On Monday night while in one of the DENI cells, Silverio asked the detectives to take him to the Cocoli area because he was going to show them where he kept other weapons.

At approximately 2115 on Monday, 7 August, upon arriving at the Cocoli area guarded by DENI units, Silverio, with the agility of a cat and quick as a flash with the determination to escape under the cover of darkness in terrain he knew like the back of his hand, disarmed a DENI member and took his weapon like in a scene from the movies.

He immediately opened fire in an attempt to kill some of his captors. However, according to Inspector Cordova, another DENI member was able to shoot at the moment Silverio was pulling the trigger of "his" carbine. The shot killed him immediately and his body was taken to the Santo Tomas Hospital morgue.

Silverio Brown Turton became well-known when a local newspaper published a photograph in which he appeared armed with a submachinegun firing outside the Legislative Palace. Although Silverio was not prosecuted for this action in which several people died amid great political confusion, he was viewed as a member of a political commando group that defended the followers of the UNADE [National Democratic Union]. Everything indicates that Silverio participated in politics, but as a front to conceal his criminal activities.

Brown always appeared to be in the frontline of fire in several political activities and he even left for Nicaragua to fight the Anastasio Somoza dictatorship. While in Nicaragua he improved his knowledge of the military art and of conspiracy. Therefore, everything indicates that the authorities, even though they have not expressly stated this, had been watching and following him closely to observe his movements that appeared to be "political."

According to what has been discovered in ongoing investigations Silverio Brown committed all kinds of misdeeds, especially in the criminal world, by using a political cover and even passing himself off as a "security" agent.

His method was very simple. In places where local drug traffickers operated, he would arrive with weapon in hand and take merchandise from the dealers "in the name of the law" so that he and his band could later sell it.

Described As G-2 'Bully'

PA082242 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Aug 84, p 12C

["In a Few Words" column]

[Excerpt] Silverio Brown

Fifteen or 20 days ago, one of my informants told me that Silverio Brown was in trouble. Making use of his immunity, he had broken into the home of a cocaine dealer and taken 1 or 2 kgs of the drug. But, either by mere chance or because of bad luck, the dealer was an authorized distributor and enjoyed official protection. Silverio Brown was detained. As I usually do in such cases I took notice of the news, and decided to await confirmation from a different source. But I did not hear about the matter again.

This last Sunday, at siesta time as usual, the phone rang. A person told me that Brown was in prison, along with other members of his special group. My informant did not give me any more details, for fear that his voice could be recognized or his call traced. I had a premonition and waited. Two nights ago, we received a phone call at the paper: Silverio Brown was murdered by the DENI [National Department of Investigation]. We decided to wait. At last, the official news was released yesterday, a story that was as full of holes as Swiss cheese.

Background

As you will remember, Brown was one of the bullies used by the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] and the National Guard to fire on the people in front of the Legislative Building on 7 May. Many people saw him in action. On 10 May, LA PRENSA published pictures taken by a U.S. television network that clearly showed Brown as he was firing. Other shots (rebroadcast by TV 4 [Panama City Circuito RPC Television] last night) depict Brown at the moment he fired his revolver on unarmed demonstrators, while an ugly gun sticks out of his belt.

The assistant attorney general told us at the time that the picture was so blurred that it was impossible to identify the man. But I will never forget that 10 May. The newspaper's phone rang unceasingly from early in the morning until late that night--readers has recognized the man in the picture: his name is Silverio Brown, a bully who works for G-2... There followed an unending police record, whole details matched each other perfectly. We released this information, but the attorney general looked the other way, despite the fact that hundreds of people also called him and offered to identify the gunman. The attorney general was unmoved. Time passed. When they were asked, the authorities responded that they did not know Brown's whereabouts. In addition, there was no official charge against him, perhaps because to kill is not a crime when that killing is done by an official.

CSO: 3248/729

PANAMA

BRIEFS

NEW LA REPUBLICA EDITOR--Veteran newsman Ricardo Lince is the new editor of LA REPUBLICA, which until recently had been leased to a group headed by Escolastico Calvo, Panama's consul general in Antwerp. [Text] [PA261632 Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English 26 Aug 84 p 1]

CSO: 3200/41

PERU

BRIEFS

VIOLENCE INCREASES, STRIKES NOTED--In a communique issued today, the Association of Lima Lawyers warned that repeated charges of tortures, disappearances, and illegal executions by the armed forces make all democratic consciences reflect on these actions which increase the degree of violence in Peru. Meanwhile, the so-called Peasants Rounds [Rondas Campesinas], which a Lima morning newspaper describes as paramilitary forces, killed 15 alleged members of the Shining Path near (Mostibamba) in Ayacucho Department. Approximately 7,000 doctors of the Peruvian Health Ministry will stage a 24-hour general strike to demand the abolishment of two decrees which affect their right to better salaries. Another strike by approximately 300 rice growers is viewed as imminent in Arequipa Department, in southern Peru. The rice growers are demanding that government agencies begin payment of the \$250,000 debt accumulated since April. According to Labor Ministry sources, eight strikes are underway in Peru involving more than 3,000 workers from various sectors. [Text] [PA032209 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Sep 84]

CSO: 3348/554

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

OPPOSITION LEADER--Kingstown, Wed., (Cana)--Milton Cato, defeated Prime Minister in last month's general elections, has been named Leader of the Opposition dampening speculation that he may be planning an early retirement. Cato, who is 69, lost power when his Labour Party was beaten by James Mitchell's New Democratic Party by nine seats to four in the July 25 poll. A lawyer, Cato became the first Premier of St Vincent and The Grenadines in 1969 when the country became a State in association with Britain, and was also the first Prime Minister when it gained independence in 1979. He last served as Opposition Leader for a brief period between 1972 and 1974, during the administration of the Mitchell-People's Political Party alliance Government. Before that, he was leader of the Opposition from 1961-67, when Ebenezer Joshua's People's Political Party (PPP) was in power. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Aug 84 p 5]

STAR ELECTION ASSESSMENT--Kingstown, Sat., (Cana)--The "Star" newspaper, organ of the Opposition St Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) has listed "bribing and treating" among the factors which caused the party to lose last month's general elections in St Vincent and The Grenadines. New Prime Minister James Mitchell's New Democratic Party (NDP) won the July 25 general election, gaining nine of the 13 seats in Parliament. The SVLP secured the other four. The "Star" said the financial involvement of big business and "the mass violation of the election laws of bribing and treating" were factors responsible for Labour's defeat. It added "the scale on which the election offence of bribery was conducted in this election as unprecedented." It did not say who was responsible. The newspaper said businessmen were influenced by the NDP's promise to remove the three percent gross turnover tax imposed by the Labour Government in 1982 much to the annoyance of the private sector and conceded that voters here were generally attracted by the NDP's pledge to abolish income tax on annual income below \$10,000. The "Star" also listed the contempt of court issue involving former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Grafton Isaacs, and the alleged involvement of a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a shooting incident during the Mesopotamia Carnival celebrations in June. The "Star" declared that the SVLP would continue to remain an active and vigilant political force in St Vincent and The Grenadines. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 84 p 4]

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY--Kingstown, Sat., (Cana)--The Committee on Public Financing and Debt appointed last week by the new James Mitchell Government to assess and evaluate the state of the economy of St Vincent and The Grenadines has had its first meeting. Chairman of the committee, economist Noel Venner, said all six members of the committee together with the three consultants took oaths of secrecy at Government House and then proceeded to set down policies and guidelines on how to go about their task. The committee will over the next three months pay particular attention to the country's public debt both internal and external, and will investigate the operations of 25 statutory bodies and state entities. Its main task is to formulate policy recommendations for dealing with the country's outstanding debt, and for public sector financing and management of the public debt within the overall policies for development. Venner and his committee are expected to present an interim report on their findings within a month, with a final report expected to be submitted by early November. [Text] [Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 84 p 4]

CSO: 3298/1076

UNITED NATIONS INVESTIGATION OF 1982 KILLINGS FINISHED

Publication Planned for 1985

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 2 Aug 84 p 1

[Text]

S c h i p h o l, August 1 - United Nations investigator Amos Wako left the Netherlands today saying his inquiries into the killing of 15 opposition leaders in Surinam in December 1982 had been 'satisfactorily completed.'

The Kenyan lawyer, who is a special reporter to the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, said he had interviewed more than 20 people in the Netherlands during his 36-hour stay.

His visit here followed a six-day trip to Surinam, where he led a five-man U.N. mission on an investigation into the deaths.

The events of December 8 1982, when the opposition leaders were killed in Paramaribo while under arrest, severely damaged relations between the Netherlands and her former colony.

Dutch development aid to Surinam was suspended, contributing to the South American country's current financial crisis.

Until now, the Surinam military regime led by Lt. Col. Desi Bouterse had insisted that the killings were an internal matter, and had consistently refused to permit an independent inquiry.

Report

Wako said his findings would be made public in a report which would be published after it had been presented to the Human Rights Commission early next year.

Wako said the investigating team had interviewed more than 100 people in total, including Surinamese ministers, industrial leaders, churchmen and military personnel.

His report would aim to clarify the circumstances in which 'the unfortunate deaths occurred,' and would also consider in general the question of how political murders could be avoided, he said.

A spokesman for the SIM Human Rights Study Centre in Utrecht, which was asked to organise the inquiries in the Netherlands for the U.N., said the report could lead to a ruling by the Human Rights Commission against the regime in Surinam.

Bouterse 'Implicated'

The Hague ANP NEWS BULLETIN in English 11 Aug 84 p 5

[Text]

R o t t e r d a m, August 10 - Surinam's military ruler Desi Bouterse has been implicated in the killing of 15 opposition leaders in Paramaribo by witnesses who gave evidence to a United Nations investigation team, ANP reporters were told today.

Three of the witnesses who gave evidence to a U.N. delegation led by Kenyan Amos Wako last week today repeated their statements to the ANP.

Two of the witnesses were former bodyguards of the late Major Roy Horb, who died in detention in the former Dutch colony. The third wished to remain anonymous.

The bodyguards, Hendrik Karijowidjojo and Glenn Oord, said they saw Bouterse in Fort Zeelandia on the night when the 15 were killed there.

Denial

Bouterse has always denied that he was there.

Surinamese authorities have, until now, refused to permit an outside investigation into the killings.

Last week however, Wako, special reporter to the U.N. human rights commission, was allowed to lead an investigation there.

Wako is due to report to the commission early next year, and will not make his findings public until he has done so.

The killings led to a severe deterioration in relations between Surinam and the Netherlands, and Dutch development aid was suspended, contributing to Surinam's current severe financial problems.

CSO: 3200/46

CHAMBERS ASSESSES PRIVATE, PUBLIC SECTOR PRODUCTIVITY

Speech in Tobago

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

BANKS and insurance companies, two of the major beneficiaries of the oil windfall, have been requested by Prime Minister George Chambers to plough back some of their profits into the development of the agricultural sector.

Mr. Chambers was responding to a memorandum from the Tobago Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce at a luncheon meeting yesterday as he continued his extended working visit to the sister island yesterday.

The Prime Minister, who lamented low productivity in both the private and public sectors, indicated that both sides could combine their talents to deal effectively with the situation.

The comprehensive Chamber document, presented by its Chairman, Mr. Lester Moore, at the Mount Irvine Hotel, stated that the main employment and economic activities in the sister island were the public sector, the agricultural sector, tourism, construction industry and manufacturing, the latter four being described as being in an unsatisfactory state.

The four-page document called for tax concessions for individuals and companies involved in the tourist industry in Tobago; immigration formalities to be smoothed, tax incentives for agriculture which would take in tax-free profits for agricultural enterprises, and accrued losses should be allowed to be set off against total subsequent annual profits.

REVIEW OF POLICY

Mr. Moore said Tobago should be established as a duty-free area and called for a review of government's policy on tourism to provide greater encouragement of total investment, both international and local.

"The policy of the Tobago Board, its role in Tobago and its marketing

strategy need to be reviewed," he said.

He noted that substantial criticism had been made of hotel rates in Tobago but similar criticism was made of the even higher rates of those in Trinidad.

Such criticism, he said, blamed these rates for the industry's poor performance; rarely was account taken of the high cost of the input into the industry — cost which had recently escalated.

Mr. Moore said Tobago could make no continuing contribution to the industry on the basis of cheap holidays and he pointed out that perpetuation of the thinking which created high occupancies and low prices with success in the industry would ensure its obliteration.

"After our nationals spend their holidays in Barbados, Margarita, Panama and now, perhaps, in Grenada, what is left of local trade for Tobago is low prices and low occupancies," he said.

The manufacturing sector, Mr. Moore told the Prime Minister, was virtually non-existent and private commercial activities employed a very small part of the labour force and was dependent on the level of economic activity in the other sectors.

LACK OF FUNDS

Growth of the construction industry, though having the capacity to absorb a large number of semi-skilled and skilled labour, was hampered by the unavailability of long term mortgage funds.

On the public sector, Mr. Moore complained:

"With limited resources we cannot continue to accept poor results and low levels of productivity.

"If no serious effort is made to improve productivity and time spent on the job, little possibility will exist of stimulating substantial private sector activity in an island economy like that of Tobago where such activity is labour intensive and development will mean further competition for the labour force.

"It is in this light that public sector policy needs to be rationalised."

Replying to some of the points made by Mr. Moore, Prime Minister Chambers suggested that the low level of productivity was not applicable only to the public sector.

"It has been my experience and the experience of many who have had dealing with the private sector -- and I make this comment because we are doing something about ourselves -- that the apparent low levels of productivity and the lack of civility in dealing with the population from the standpoint of the public sector pales into insignificance when compared with the corresponding lack of productivity in the much vaunted private sector.

"Since we have taken steps at the public sector level to put our house in order, you might wish to consider whether or not if you did the same in the private sector the combination of resources when we come to implement recommendations ..we might all galvanise the population

into more productivity."

Mr. Chambers said that he did not know if the Chamber was aware that a number of points raised in the documents, Government had already initiated action.

One of the areas, he said, was improvement to the terminal facilities at Crown Point Airport. The appointment of a committee under Mr. Frank Rampersad to report on the establishment of duty-free zone was another area.

He said that tax concessions had already been given to companies in the tourist industry in Tobago.

On the agricultural scenario, Mr. Chambers said: "Two of the major beneficiaries of the oil windfall were the banks and the insurance companies.

"And I have been looking at the profits, I have been looking at their balance sheets, which they have been publishing, and it appears to me that some of that money can be ploughed back now for the benefit of the national community.

"At the lending rates you all are charging these days -- and I speak as a person who owes one of the banks on a mortgage loan -- your accumulated profits and so on and so forth, I think you have some responsibility to now plough back some of that into long-term mortgage financing.

Mr. Chambers, saying that it should not be entirely up to the Agricultural Development Bank which has been carrying the brunt of the loan portfolio in agriculture over the years, noted that members of audience were bankers.

Trinidad and Tobago, he added, was moving towards becoming self-sufficient in certain types of agricultural produce, and, if not, was reducing on the imports of many of the products.

GUARDIAN Comment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Aug 84 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

WE are at one with the Prime Minister when he urges the country on to greater productivity.

And we are pleased to hear from him that steps have been taken at the public sector level to put its house in order, although we are yet to observe any significant general im-

provement in this direction.

But Mr. Chambers leaves us flabbergasted by his obviously absurd comparison between levels of productivity in the public and private sector.

Speaking to the Tobago Division of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce on Tues-

day, the Prime Minister said it was his experience, and that of many others, "that the apparent low levels of productivity and the lack of civility in dealing with the population from the standpoint of the public sector pales into insignificance when compared with the corresponding lack of productivity in the much vaunted private sector."

UNFORTUNATE

Mr. Chambers's observation is not only quite unwarranted but so patently inaccurate that we must wonder, what scene is he on?

If, by this left-handed compliment, the Prime Minister expects to sweeten relations with public servants who are now locked in wage negotiations with his Government, then he must know that low levels of productivity in the public sector is one of the key issues in the dispute.

If, on the other hand, Mr. Chambers felt the time had come to put "the much vaunted private sector" in its place then we think his remarks were most unfortunate as they reveal in the country's leader a dubious and even sceptical appreciation of the organs of private enterprise and the vital role that they play in the nation's economy.

Mr. Chambers has a way of puzzling us with some of his off-the-cuff remarks which seem more designed to create doubt than to inspire confidence, clarify issues and impart direction.

In this case, the confusion is such that we would honestly like to know what the Prime Minister and his Government really think about the operation of private business and industry in the country.

It is our view that the private sector's contribution to the economic development of Trinidad and Tobago is too important for it to continue to operate in a climate of uncer-

tainty and a feeling that, as far as the Government is concerned, it should be accommodated more by sufferance than for its intrinsic value.

At this time, we think the Government owes the country the clearest possible articulation of its economic philosophy. If the heart of this Government is more enraptured with socialist ideas, seeing the private sector as playing a secondary role, then they should be honest enough to say so openly.

INADEQUATE

The Prime Minister's observations are also disappointing when considered in the present economic context where the challenges facing in the country can only be successfully met by a spirit of unity and cooperation among all productive sectors.

In the light of this, the greatest danger facing our young nation is its inherent divisiveness. Mr. Chambers knows this only too well and should recognise that, in the national effort to overcome this weakness, his leadership position requires him to be the chief evangelist of cohesion and cooperation.

As far as his comparison of productivity levels are concerned, we wonder what kind of upside-down yardstick the Prime Minister must have used to come up with such a conclusion.

We are sure that the villagers of Tobago who have been complaining about inadequate water supply, electricity outages and lack of bus transport would not agree with him.

Apart from the poor performance that characterises most public sector agencies and the maladministration of so many State Enterprises, we think it would be interesting for Mr. Chambers to find out why as yet nothing has been done about the Naparima Bowl since his last visit to San Fernando.

PNM IN SELF-ANALYSIS SEES NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT

GUARDIAN Assessment

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 19 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

THE image of the People's National Movement is "tarnished by corruption."

The Party's image has also been damaged by the operations of DEWD "through Government's inability to do anything about wastage of materials and low productivity."

The amazing part about these serious political charges is their source. One would expect them to emanate from a rival political party or from an unsympathetic or hostile area.

The shock is that it comes from the People's National Movement itself!! As it turns out, the General Council of the PNM at its regular meeting held at Point Fortin on Sunday, March 20, 1983, appointed a committee with the following terms of reference — "to examine the role, functions and perspectives of the People's National Movement".

IRREGULARITIES

The committee comprised 10 members. The Chairman was O.R. Padmore (erstwhile Press critic); and some of the other members included Morris Marshall, Cutbert Joseph, Muriel Donawa-McDavidson and Desmond Cartey. Two other members were co-opted — Muriel Green and Basil Ince.

In some absolutely eyebrow-raising findings, the report also charged that there is a lack of productivity permeating the entire society; and that there are "numerous irregularities at the polls."

When one sees indictments as serious as these, one gets the impression that the PNM is suffering from an acute case of schizophrenia.

This is the medical term for a split personality in one individual who can have two completely dissociated and separate modes of behaviour which may be sufficiently different even to earn the descriptions of "opposing", or "mutually antagonistic."

Only schizophrenia explains how an organisation can preach rectitude and morality in public affairs, and refuse to believe that it is anything short of divine virtue incarnate, while members make a public and insouciant habit of unvirtuous behaviour.

It should be pointed out that the conclusions in the report were not exclusively those of the committee members.

True, it is among their own group that expression was given to this matter of the tarnishing of the Party's image by corruption.

But because the members felt that they should not appear to be operating 'in vacuo', or out of touch with the Party membership, they undertook to meet with all 36 constituencies, as well as the Women's League, and the Youth League.

It is these consultations that turned the spotlight on lack of productivity. But consensus came on other points such as the very issue of corruption, the group's feeling that these charges must be taken seriously.

BIZARRE

This makes the whole situation all the more bizarre for here you have senior members of the Party, including Ministers, criticising the very policies that they support and carry out!

Now, something has to be wrong! And from all appearances it is a wrong, and a most fundamental one and that, crying out to be put right. Because if the people in the Party itself, are echoing many of the criticisms levelled at the PNM by the general public, then it appears that key members of Cabinet are not prepared to pay cognizance to the views and recommendations of the very Party that helped put them in power!

It is either a case of blatant disregard and arrogant refusal to listen to the voices of supporters and grass roots; or it is yet another piece of evidence of PNM's schizophrenia whereby one side can mouth principled platitudes, while the other side gets up and does precisely the opposite.

In pursuing its business, the committee members, among other things, expressed the following damning viewpoints:-

*The institutions and organs of the Party have become passive or non-existent e.g. the General Council and the Central Executive.

*The belief that the PNM is the saviour of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, "is now at risk."

*Not only is the PNM "losing its grip," but it is "moving away from the people."

*The Party groups are numer-

ous on paper but ineffective in practice; and there are allegations of groups nominating candidates without holding nominating meetings and of false annual general meetings.

At the consultations with the Party units, the people expressed displeasure and disturbance over failure of the government "to deal resolutely with the issue involving Guayamare residents".

As every commuting member of the public knows, the vexing Guayamare question devolves around a handful of squatters blocking highway development on the most heavily trafficked arterial link in the country, the Uriah Butler Highway.

How ironic that Butler, a man noted for fighting bureaucracy and establishment indifference, should find his name associated with the quintessence of bureaucratic bumbling and indecision.

Everyone knows that week-kneed indecision and political affrighting are the reasons why the Guayamare wrong, can not be put right.

The fact that a handful of residents can hold up the progress of thousands of people in this country, has not been lost on the grass roots members of the Party ... but apparently it has been lost on the hierarchy.

And talking of hierarchy, the Party members pointed out that the top brass should have been more involved in the election campaign, complaining that it is customary for Party officers to go on overseas tours at election time.

All of this, according to the people of the PNM, adds up to a Party that it is "not now providing leadership" because it lacks vibrancy and because the "hierarchy (is) not dynamic." Isn't this what everybody has been saying?

Part of the trouble according to the feed-back from the membership, is that "Ministers do not follow up on their promises", nor do they pay "proper attention to Party members" — a view further reinforcing the feeling that the autocratic side of the split personality, is winning-out over the freedom-loving, democratic side.

REINFORCE

To further reinforce this point, the membership declared that "the PNM has become more concerned with the government than with the Party."

Other points:-

***A mentality of freeness has developed:**

***Vandalism is abjured.**

***Squatting has become a cancer in the society.** (Even the stalwarts of the PNM recognise that this mess has gone completely out of control. Efforts in low cost housing starts are totally unequal to demand and there is a complete absence of published plans or a rationale for alleviating squatting through provision of an insistence on basic site outlays, building conditions and health facilities).

Turning its attention inward, the Party members declared that PNM is "lacking" in direction and goals..." As a result, the "Party Secretariat should be a hub of activity, but instead it is a failure, a dead place."

It declares that the organisation came out of the middle class but now the Party is almost deliberately "giving away" the middle class.

"This is a tragedy which could lead to defeat," is the dire warning. It adds that yesterday's grassroots are today's middle class and unless it goes back "to its roots (middle class), unless we do this, we are not doing justice to the father of the nation."

It adds that senior officers of the Party are not generally involved in the operations of the Movement ... the point that once more reinforces the commonly held view that the PNM has devolved in a few doing precisely as they wish regardless of what the people or their people have to say.

It is therefore not an altogether surprising conclusion that the people in the PNM feel that the "early concepts of the Party have been changed, (and) the Party does not appear to be a people's Party anymore."

In a nutshell, the "PNM has

lost the grassroots of this country (and is) dying a slow death."

NEGATIVE

This column does not enjoy saying "we told you so," but there are many areas in this report by the PNM, of the PNM and Government that have been raised time and time again by this column and by others but just as constantly disregarded by the negative, autocratic side of the schizophrenic organisation

The very organisation that expresses "concern about the large number of vagrants roaming the streets, " is forced to look on in frustration as the pitiful hordes of the dispossessed remain totally disregarded by the PNM top brass. Apparently the latter are content to see lives and locales turned into mental, moral and physical detritus.

This case history of political schizophrenia does not end there. Just as it begins to appear that the poor, disregarded Party members are on one side, and the haughty, un-listening leaders are on the other, a further quirk turns up.

For all their sanctimonious breast-beating and hair-pulling, the membership declares that it was "a scandal that on the eve of local government elections, an Opposition political leader could be given prime TV time and exposure". Now just a minute! What inconsistency is this? One part of the report enshrines the principle of freedom in the judiciary, in speech, in assembly, and in press publicity.

Yet at the same time, the same people could have the temerity to hint that the government-owned television station should invoke and utilise censorship, and suppression of the very freedoms so piously enunciated under a separate heading!

If we are not careful, this country could be saddled with a political party with so many splits in its personality that it may even be beyond the helping hand of modern psychiatry.

Call for Shake-up

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 84 p 3

[Article by John Babb]

[Text]

THE PEOPLE's National Movement (PNM) is doing some intensive soul-searching these days.

It is in search for a new policy document that sets out the party's revised aims and objectives - a document to replace the 15-year-old Chaguanas Declaration.

Following the call by Housing Minister, Senator Wendell Mottley, for a new dispensation, the party's Education Officer, Dr. Cuthbert Joseph, on Sunday warned party members that the challenge facing the PNM was not from outside, but from within the party.

TAKE STOCK

Reporting to the 24th annual conference of his Port-of-Spain East Constituency, Dr. Joseph who is Minister of Local Government and Community Development, warned: "The PNM has to take stock. There are certain challenges within the PNM. The PNM has to be shaken out of its complacency."

Failing this, Dr. Joseph pointed to the likelihood of the party being replaced in power by two "leaders" who he said were "splinters of the PNM."

They become splinters, according to him, because they did not have what it took, through the democratic processes of the party, to achieve leadership of the PNM.

While he did not mention any names, Dr. Joseph's statement was in direct reference to Mr. Karl Hudson Phillips, leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR), and Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, leader of the Democratic Action Congress (DAC) - both of them former members of the PNM

hierarchy.

Singlehandedly, he said, these "splinters" could not face the PNM. But, it was their democratic right to "accommodate," or "federate." But Dr. Joseph urged party members to take note of some of the ways and means of the Opposition's efforts to replace the PNM.

In the last Local Government elections the PNM did not lose because there was any onslaught by the so-called "accommodation of parties," declared Dr. Joseph. The PNM he said, lost by default.

"The party, as a body, was much too complacent to go out there and work, as it has been accustomed, to secure certain victory," he told his party audience at the Basilon Street Youth Centre in Port-of-Spain.

PREVAIL

The Minister added: "The party has been saying we all know for certain that 'Great is the PNM and it shall prevail.' But the challenge facing the party today to ensure that it prevails is not a challenge that comes from outside. It is a challenge that emanates from within the party. The party needs to shake itself up out of its present complacency," he added.

He said the people of Trinidad and Tobago could not afford to place the fortunes of the nation and the region in the hands of what he described as "that medley group of incongruous politicians."

"If the people of Trinidad and Tobago should ever do such a thing," he declared, "history will not forgive them."

Stand on DEWD

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

PORT-OF-SPAIN East constituency of the People's National Movement (PNM) is seeking the introduction of an eight-hour work day for the 10,500 persons employed each fortnight in DEWD (Department of Environmental Works Division).

In the face of the current shortage of funds, the resolution passed at the constituency's 24th. annual conference, places emphasis on increasing the productivity of DEWD workers.

Since their ten days per fortnight have been reduced to eight days, DEWD workers have been up in arms vehemently protesting the reduction.

But Government has pointed out that in the face of dwindling funds — an estimated \$60 million remaining for the rest of the year — the reduction was necessary. Maintaining ten days would mean further retrenchment.

Speaking at yesterday's constituency conference, Dr. Cuthbert Joseph, parliamentary representative for Port-of-Spain East, where thousands of DEWD workers reside, said retrenchment should be avoided at all cost.

But because of the serious limitation of funds, he explained, it may be inevitable to contain the level of employment.

He told the party conference: "In facing the challenge of adjustment, however, major emphasis should be placed on increasing productivity in DEWD, as well as in all other sectors of the economy, both public and private."

It was with this in mind, he said, that the resolution had such terms as: eight hours work for eight hours' pay; a better supply of materials

and tools to workers; a better system of supervision.

STRICTER CONTROLS

Also, the elimination of duress and threats of violence in the current practice of industrial relations;

- stricter financial controls to avoid all forms of corruption including the listing of fictitious employees;

- a more equitable system of rotation of employees;

- an intensification of the system of the training of workers;

- introduction of a system of incentive payments aimed at rewarding productivity by performance; and

- maximum involvement of the recognised trade union in the restructuring and in the administration of the programme.

Dr. Joseph recalled that such considerations were embodied as recommendations of the Mahabir Committee which reported in March, 1979.

The committee under the chairmanship of Labour Minister Errol Mahabir, he recalled, was mandated to study and make recommendations on the re-orientation of the Special Works Programme, in the light of social realities.

Dr. Joseph also advised that the 1984 provision for DEWD was \$150 million, and that DEWD currently provided employment for about 10,500 persons per fortnight.

Tobago Party Posts

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

ALL the top posts in the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), with the exception of two — Political Leader and General Secretary — are expected to be contested when the PNM holds its annual convention on September 29 and 30 in Tobago.

This was stated by a senior official of the party who explained yesterday that the two posts are contested once every five years, including that of party Chairman.

Holder of the post of Political Leader is the Prime Minister of

Trinidad and Tobago, Mr. George Chambers.

Among the top posts expected to be contested and for which nominations have been received include Chairman, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, Education Officer, Welfare Officer, Elections Officer, Labour Relations Officer, Lady Vice-Chairman, Assistant General Secretary, Operations Officer, Youth Officers (Male and Female).

Meanwhile Mr. Alvan Quamina, General Secretary of the PNM, explained yesterday the party as such was not asking BWIA or the Port Authority to put on special schedules for the period of the convention to be held at the Signal Hill Senior Comprehensive School.

Mr. Quamina was commenting on a report that BWIA was approached by a Port-of-Spain travel agency to charter two aircraft to take party members and supporters to Tobago for the convention.

The agency, according to an official, was told BWIA did not char-

ter flights to Tobago, and the official told the "Trinidad Guardian" yesterday:

"Imagine BWIA, which is on a drive to improve its financial viability, turning down business that way."

"I don't know what are their reasons for not chartering flights to Tobago but as a businessman it does seem to be not the correct business attitude to adopt."

Efforts to contact the airline's Public Relations Officer were not successful.

Contacted yesterday, Mr Quamina said:

"The party has not requested any special scheduling or special rates for the occasion. All we have told the port people and BWIA was that an unusual number of people will be travelling around that time and to prepare themselves for that eventuality."

"But we have not authorised anybody to charter flights, although we know some constituents expressed some interest in that regard."

CSO: 3298/1077

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

CHAMBERS VISIT KEEPS SPOTLIGHT ON TOBAGO AFFAIRS

Response to Criticism

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] ANNUAL reports of the Tobago House of Assembly since 1981 have not been presented to the Minister in the Ministry of Finance responsible for the administration of Tobago, in accordance with the law.

Prime Minister George Chambers, made this disclosure when he addressed members and supporters of the St. Ann's East Constituency of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM), at the constituency's annual conference on Sunday evening.

Mr. Chambers, who used the occasion to reply to several verbal attacks made against him as a result of his continuing "residence" in Tobago, also put the party in a state of readiness for the launching of the campaign for the November elections to the Tobago House of Assembly, (THA).

The Prime Minister, delivering the address in his capacity as parliamentary representative for the constituency, endorsed the call made earlier by Housing Minister, Senator Wendell Mottley, for a new nationalism.

But he cautioned:

"I will never lend support to any attempt to identify the PNM with any particular class. It is particularly self-defeating and, in fact, is almost as bad as the astonishing political conclusion which I have heard recently that if A, B, C and D are united then the national community would be united.

"A, of course, represents nobody, speaks for nobody; B represents nobody and will never represent anybody; C is playing fast and lose with certain votes in certain parts of the country which sooner than later will catch up with him and 'D' represented at the last count 56 per cent of four per cent of the national community."

On the "attacks" which he said he found were personal and of a hostile nature--for merely visiting a part of the country--Mr. Chambers said he felt his constituents would want to know his reactions to some of them.

"I am not now speaking to the national community...I am speaking to my constituents...I will speak to the national community at my new residence in Blenheim (laughter)."

The Prime Minister explained it was never his intention that his Tobago visit should create panic or desperation among certain people which it appeared to have done.

Referring to charges that he was being "discourteous," Mr. Chambers told his audience he was at a loss to understand that, since by nature he was a very courteous person even going out of his way at times to be courteous.

He continued:

In reflection on that accusation it occurred to me that I should again examine the constitutional instruments executed by the President after the 1981 elections and I saw among other things, that acting on my advice the President appointed Senator Anthony Jacelon as Minister responsible for the administration of Tobago."

Mr. Chambers said he found it strange that over the last three years Senator Jacelon was humiliated, abused and attacked in Tobago and there was not a single murmur about that.

Under the Act he explained the THA is supposed to present Senator Jacelon with its annual report. This had never been done and nobody had said anything about the courtesy being shown to Minister Jacelon.

On another charge that as Chairman of the National Economic Planning Commission he had not called any meetings of the Commission for 1984 (this was made by Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the THA) Mr. Chambers declared:

"As far as I know, membership of the Commission is not compulsory and anybody who is dissatisfied with the manner in which the Chairman is conducting the business is free to send in his papers...by that I mean his or her resignation."

Mr. Chambers also gave the latest position on actual expenditure for Tobago in 1984 and touched on the matter of repairs of roads in the sister island.

He said he received reports from residents that they were dissatisfied with the manner in which certain roads were being left in disrepair, notwithstanding that an enormous amount of money had been released for repairs and rebuilding of the roads.

Mr. Chambers promised that the next leg of his Tobago visit would be extremely interesting and he would elaborate on other items during that segment which would start within the week.

Concern Over Problems

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

PUBLIC UTILITIES Minister, Senator John Eckstein, has been requested by Prime Minister George Chambers to supply him promptly with an explanation for electrical blackouts in Tobago.

Mr Chambers disclosed this while speaking to residents of Bloody Bay yesterday afternoon on another leg of his working visit to Tobago.

The Prime Minister said he had also asked Minister Eckstein to give him the reasons for the deterioration of the water supply in the sister island.

After listening to complaints from the villagers pointed out mainly by 74-year-old Leighton Cruickshank which included fears of the closure of the village's only school with 16 pupils, Mr Chambers disclosed that he was concerned about the lack of employment opportunities in Bloody Bay.

This concern was triggered, according to the Prime Minister, by the fact that for the first six months of 1984 more than \$10 million was provided for unemployment relief in Tobago.

On the school feeding programme which was raised during previous visits, where speakers expressed concern about the programme not being continued because of a lack of funds, Mr Chambers explained that the agency responsible for the school feeding programme applied for credit and this was granted on August 5 in the sum of \$567,000 plus.

On the request made to Senator Eckstein relating to water, Mr Chambers said that he had pointed out to the Minister his annoyance yesterday over the performance of WASA in Tobago, and that he must get the explanation before he leaves Tobago tomorrow.

The request was made in the light of the vast amount granted for capital expenditure in Tobago.

On the Electricity situation Prime Minister Chambers told the people of Bloody Bay that he had been visited with two blackouts per night since he had been in Tobago on this phase of his tour.

Touching on complaints about the absence of a 'bus service, which was repeated half an hour later by the residents at L' Anse Fourmi, the Prime Minister explained that within the last week or two, the Public Transport Service Corporation sent Tobago 20 new 'buses to augment the existing fleet.

He said he was not sure about the disposition of these 'buses nor the routes on which they were placed.

He has also asked Minister Eckstein to explain why there is no 'bus service to Parlatuvier.

PNM Assemblyman Thomas De noon informed the Prime Minister at yesterday's function that he was told that the 'bus service should be introduced by Thursday this week.

LAND DISTRIBUTION

At L'Anse Fourmi the Prime Minister said he was informed by the Minister of Agriculture that the Ministry was now in a position to start soon the distribution of State lands to persons interested in agriculture.

Earlier yesterday Mr Chambers met the Tobago Jaycees and speaking to newsmen after the meeting, Mr Kelvin Charles, president of the Jaycees, said that Mr Chambers promised to view the problems sympathetically and would refer them to the relevant authority or ministry.

Today Mr. Chambers will meet with the Tobago Council for the Handicapped, the Tobago Chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Tobago Chapter of the Society for the Disabled.

This meeting with these three organisations will take place at 10 a.m. at the Prime Minister's Office, Administration Building in Scarborough

At 12.30 p.m. he will attend a Luncheon with the Tobago Chapter of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and, at 4.30 p.m., he will meet the Glen Road Community, at Glen Road Community Centre.

Central Government Spending

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Clevon Raphael]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER George Chambers yesterday acknowledged the need for a new General Hospital in Scarborough, Tobago, and told an audience at the Plymouth EC School that the time had come for thought to be given to construction of such an institution.

Mr Chambers also disclosed that between 1981 and 1983 the Central Government disbursed \$33 million on equipment in Tobago and that a new draft education plan for Trinidad and Tobago would be placed before the national community for comment.

The Prime Minister, who was attending the last function of the fourth phase of his visit to Tobago, said also that the question of a deep water harbour for Tobago had to be considered in the light of general priorities.

He said this matter which had been advocated over the years would be dealt with in a very objective manner.

He also told the audience, in response to complaints, that the importation of pork products would have to be examined in the light of certain factors which exist in the country such as the operations of a State-owned meat processing plant.

The meeting, which was described by Mr. Chambers as a very likely one, was characterised by the constant stream of residents voicing their various complaints.

Mr. Chambers is scheduled to return to Port of Spain this morning and said he would be back in Tobago soon because it was his intention to be in Tobago for the forthcoming weeks and months.

CSO: 3298/1078

OPPOSITION ELEMENTS VOICE POSITIONS ON ISSUES

Tapia Leader on PNM

Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 2 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Leonard Robertson]

[Text] TAPIA leader, acting Senator Bhoendranath Tewarie yesterday said he wanted "as many supporters of the People's National Movement as possible to make their presence felt in any national party."

In an interview with the EXPRESS, Tewarie said he wanted "that large section of the African community traditionally tied to the fortunes of the ruling party to fit into the national party." He said they would be assured of political security even if they desert the PNM.

He hailed the recently formed National Alliance for Reconstruction as a major step towards opposition and national unity but at the same time warned that the leaders must be careful in case they created an opposition party and not an alternative party. Tewarie said they must not fall in that trap but build an organisation which could govern the country.

The university lecturer said, in preparation for that event, the national party could not afford the luxury of indiscipline and irresponsibility, facets which had become prevalent in opposition politics.

"How we proceed to build the party is of greater significance than the product," he continued. He said the supporters of the Accommodation, the loose electoral alliance between the two parties, began to sense that the lull which existed in the movement could not be allowed to last and put pressure on the National Alliance and the ONR "to do something."

He alluded to the six mini-conventions held by the Alliance as important fora at which the whole question was raised and debated. Tewarie cautioned that the leaders had to be careful that the supporters did not go way ahead of them politically so that when the national party was formalised, it did not come as an anti-climax.

He said the parties must be aware that the formation of any political organisation which cut across all boundaries would be a threat to the PNM and to the oligarchy which ruled the country.

County Council Involvement

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 84 p 3

[Text] PRESENCE of Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) personnel on County Councils not controlled by the ONR Alliance have ensured that democracy and the democratic institutions prosper.

This was stated yesterday by Alderman Suruj Rambachan, acting Political Leader of the ONR, in a statement marking the first anniversary of the victory achieved by the Alliance ONR pact in the 1983 Local Government elections.

Alderman Rambachan, Chairman of the St. Patrick County Council, in congratulating the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the six councils controlled by the combined parties, said:

"I also wish to praise ONR councillors on councils controlled by the PNM where, despite the tremendous odds and open bias of the PNM, enormous gains have been realised for the benefit of citizens.

"It is clear that the presence of ONR personnel in non-ONR/Alliance controlled councils have ensured that democracy and the democratic institutions prosper."

High Level

Alderman Rambachan also noted that a high level of managerial skill and dedication had been displayed by the various Alliance/ONR Chairmen, especially with regard to the fact that, objectives were set and made public by all chairmen and, in addition, public accountability with regard to such objectives had taken place.

He further congratulated the outgoing chairmen for their willingness to respond to the enquiries from the news media.

"Such openness Press with the ensured that democracy and freedom of speech, including the right to criticise public officers, will continue to prevail."

On the formation of the National Alliance for Reconstruction, Alderman Rambachan said:

"It is the much needed instrument for democratic change, an instrument which brings together the many diverse communities in our society towards the common goal of a stable and prosperous Trinidad and Tobago, working in the interest of the individual as an individual, without the stamp of race, colour or creed."

Alliance and ONR leaders held another meeting yesterday (Wed) to continue their unity talks.

Defense of Media

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Aug 84 p 18

[Text] THE OPPOSITION Alliance has warned that control of the media is always a temptation to those in power but this temptation should be resisted because ultimately the price for the whole society is too high.

The Alliance sent out the warning on Monday at a Press conference called to discuss Education Minister Overand Padmore's recent attack on the media in this country. Mr. Padmore accused the media of being biased in favour of the Opposition in the coverage of parliamentary proceedings.

The Press conference was held at the Tapia headquarters on Duke Street. Main speaker was Dr. Beau Tewarie, Chairman of Tapia, who gave the statement on the Alliance's position. Also present were Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, Chairman of the Tobago House of Assembly, Mr. Kelvin Ramnath, Opposition Member of Parliament for Couva South, and Mr. Lloyd Taylor, Secretary of Tapia House Movement.

Dr. Tewarie said the Alliance noted with great concern "the growing tendency on the part of government officials to launch unwarranted attacks on the daily Press and other media in Trinidad and Tobago."

The attack on the media by Mr. Padmore, he said, was only the most recent of a series of actions calculated to put pressure on those who were attempting to give a balanced view of the news.

He recalled that the Prime Minister himself had spoken adversely about the daily newspaper, and on his way to the New Delhi conference this year he had let Radio Trinidad know that it was within his power to withhold their licence.

He also recalled that charges of interference by the Minister of State Enterprises in the dismissal of TTT General Manager Roy Watts have not so far been refuted.

On the question of the Prime Minister's personal preferences as far as television news reporters are concerned, the Alliance had no quarrel with that, Dr. Tewarie said. But it was wrong, he said, for anyone in government to insist that decisions of a professional nature be made according to government's likes and dislikes.

Dr. Tewarie said that the Opposition did not feel it was especially favoured by any of the media. Government and agencies of government dominate the news on any given day, he said, be it newspaper or radio or television.

News Coverage

"It is over view that the Alliance hardly gets the news coverage it deserves, although I think it is fair to say that the media have come around to the view that Opposition politics is not a subversive activity but a right guaranteed

by the Constitution. The media have begun to concede the legitimacy of the Opposition opinion and this I believe is a major step in the direction of nurturing a democratic culture in Trinidad and Tobago."

Dr. Tewarie spoke of the need to be aware of how powerful a medium television was and how, because of the way in which it is used by Government, it helps to "undermine democratic institutions in the society.

"Television has virtually replaced Parliament as the main debating forum in the country. It has become the most potent arena for political discussion and opinion making," he said.

CSO: 3298/1078

UNION MOVEMENT, GOVERNMENT CONTINUE AT LOGGERHEADS

Weekes on 'Conspiracy'

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

MR. GEORGE WEEKES has charged that there is a "master conspiracy" being organised to destroy the trade union movement but warned that the OWTU would not surrender, giving up the rights the union had fought and shed blood for over the years.

The President General of the Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) said so yesterday at a Press conference at the House of the People in Port of Spain. Mr. Weekes was accompanied by 17 union members.

He said the conference was called because the union was concerned and disturbed about a grave conspiracy on the part of the local power structure in alliance with foreign powers to undermine and destroy progressive trade unions and destabilise the country.

He added that this was supported by certain members of Cabinet as well as officials of the Opposition. Asked what action taken by the Opposition supported this statement, Mr. Weekes answered that they were lending support by their "silence."

He said the OWTU was willing to have "meaningful dialogue" with the Employers' Consultative Associa-

tion to bring about peace. If not, the alternative, he said, is an intensification of the unrest that is going on at present. "We are patriotic and we are prepared to sit down and talk," he told the media.

RETRENCHMENT

He told the media: "Besides the questions of low wage offers there is the question of retrenchment. There is hardly an employer in this country that has not retrenched. This is common knowledge. But what is not so common knowledge is the tactic being used of arbitrary dismissal by the employer knowing full well that the wheels of the Industrial Court grind very slowly and very unevenly."

Mr. Weekes said: "Fired up by the example of U.S. President Reagan's dismissal of the Air Traffic Controllers and the deregistration of their union, employers in Trinago have intensified their attack

against the trade union movement and, more particularly, against the Progressive Trade Union Movement and unions such as Transport and Industrial Workers Union (TIWU) and Oilfields Workers' Trade Union."

"The Employers' Consultative Association has carefully worked out its strategy of attack and destroy. The strategy is one of wage freeze, retrenchment and attempts at deregistration of unions and the cannibalisation of the trade union movement."

"This strategy is not only supported by certain members of Cabinet but by certain members of the Opposition who all vigorously and actively participates in it and in fact are in the vanguard of those who wish to annihilate the workers' defence organisation. This is why we are saying that there is master conspiracy being organised against the trade union movement."

Mahabir Role

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Gail Alexander]

[Text]

STANDING firm on its decision not to back down, Lever Brothers (W.I.) Ltd. claims that there is a "silent majority" among striking employees who wish to return to work.

Company officials said yesterday that they had made an offer which was "fair and equitable" and had no intention of moving from that stand. They added that certain proposals had been made by the Minister of Labour, Mr. Errol Mahabir, and, even though they had agreed to an increase from 19 to 24 per cent, the union was still not showing signs of accepting that.

A Lever Brothers spokesman added that the company had been informed of the fact that a number of striking workers wished to return to work.

The official said he understood less than 40 per cent of the striking workers had rejected proposals made, and that a silent majority existed among them. He said that the company had evidence that some of the employees "outside" wanted to return to work.

The Minister of Labour, who is acting as mediator in the four-month-old strike, on Sunday stated that workers should be allowed to take a decision (by secret ballot or

not) whether they wish to resume work after being on strike for a month. He was speaking on the current industrial relations situation at the annual PNM San Fernando West conference held at Gulf City, La Romain.

And yesterday also, Mr. Mahabir stated that he was still awaiting word from the bargaining agent, Oilfields Workers Trade Union, on his proposals.

Mr. Mahabir said he had read in newspaper reports over the weekend (not the Guardian), that the union had rejected his offer, but to date he had not received a formal response from the OWTU.

He said he discussed the matter with the union's president general, Mr. George Weekes, on Friday, and Mr. Weekes had assured that he would look into the matter over the weekend.

Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the OWTU called an emergency General Council meeting for 1.30 p.m. today at the Union's headquarters, Paramount Building, San Fernando. The meeting will pertain to statements made by Mr. Mahabir on the current industrial relations scene and the Lever Brothers issue as well.

The union also sent out a summons to all Lever Brothers workers to attend a meeting at the strike camp tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.

However, Mr. Cecil Paul, second vice president of the OWTU, yesterday defended the union's latest counter proposal of 39-1/2 per cent, claiming that Mr. Mahabir was prolonging the dispute by his actions and threatening the workers' future by dismissing their offer as unreasonable. He was non-committal on whether the union had officially rejected the offer.

Splitting Ranks

He said: "Mr. Mahabir described our offer as unreasonable even before taking it to the company for consideration, so it appears he is acting more on behalf of Lever Brothers than as the conciliator he is supposed to be. He is prejudicing the union's power at every turn and prolonging the issue even more.

Mr. Paul also claimed that the Minister was attempting to intimidate striking workers by directing statements in reference to the Lever Brothers issue in his speech at Gulf City on Sunday. He drew attention to a certain portion of the Minister's speech which pertained to violent and abusive behaviour by picketers, who Mr. Mahabir said must be prepared to stand the consequences.

The OWTU officials described Mr. Mahabir's suggestion of secret ballots for striking workers as a means to split the ranks and break the strike. He said:

"We want people to know that the OWTU is the most democratic union in the country. We do not dictate to anyone in this union and we have always worked on a unanimous vote basis. The decision to strike was made on a majority vote and those who wished to return to work are free to do what they want to do."

In response to Mr. Paul's remarks, Mr. Mahabir said yesterday that he did not intend to engage in any argument with anyone through the media.

But in a release yesterday, the union further claimed that the Minister had made remarks very

similar to those of employers, instead of making those of an impartial conciliator in industrial disputes.

It states in part:

"He rather appears to have adopted the position of an enforcer on behalf of employers and in the case of Lever, on behalf of a foreign multinational. The Minister's statements were an attack on trade unions and on the trade union movement, and on the president general of the OWTU in particular."

According to the OWTU statement the Labour Minister's comments on lockouts and strikes do not lay blame on the part of employers, but only where trade unions are concerned. It described the Minister as having forgotten the basic rule of industrial relations where two sides are always involved.

Labor Congress Concern

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago Labour Congress is "very concerned" with the statement made by Minister of Labour, Mr. Errol Mahabir, regarding secret ballot by workers to determine return to work after one month of strike action.

Mr. Owen Hinds, acting president of the Labour Congress, said that Congress would be studying the statement by the Minister and would consider airing its views at the next tripartite meeting.

"We believe that the Minister of Labour should not only be concerned with the secret ballot by workers. He should also direct his attention to the employers," said Mr. Hinds.

He expressed the belief that when workers are on legal strike, employers should not be allowed to continue to operate their businesses. When employers are allowed to do that, then it would be "a plain case of provocation."

The Minister of Labour made the statement last Sunday at the annual conference of the San Fernando West Constituency of the People's National Movement of which he is parliamentary representative.

After referring to the proposed amendments to the Industrial Relations Act which came out of the

tripartite talks and in cases where industrial action was protracted beyond three months, the Minister said:

"It would seem desirable that the law should be amended also to provide for workers of a bargaining unit to determine by secret ballot whether or not they wish to resume work after a strike has been in progress for say a month."

He said he came to that view from the experience of the current situation where many workers now on strike have allegedly been indicating their desire to return to work but are fearful of doing so because of possible reprisals against them by fellow workers.

SERIOUS VIEW

"I have had several reports and, in fact, I have received several letters from workers involved to this effect," Mr. Mahabir said.

Mr. Hinds said yesterday that

Congress would be viewing the Minister's remarks very seriously.

If the workers were to determine their own destiny, then what was the use of trade unions in this country? he asked. The trade unions, he said, were the protective arms of the working class. Without the unions, employers would move to take more and more advantage of their employees and their fundamental rights and freedoms would be lost, noted Mr. Hinds.

He said the Minister should also divert his attention to employers who were taking advantage of the workers.

CSO: 3298/1079

LOCAL COMPANY MAY AID IN GRENADA ROAD-BUILDING

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 10 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text]

READY for road construction in Grenada's notoriously awful inland travel routes is Trinidad and Tobago's Secondary Roads Company (SRC).

High up in the Grenada Advisory Council's (Interim Government) list of priorities in that neighbouring island, still reeling from last October's murderous upheaval, is the need for assistance in roadworks.

The Trinidad and Tobago aid mission, sent to Grenada by this country and headed by former Appeal Court Judge U'ric Cross, agreed in its report laid in Parliament this week that Trinidad and Tobago should assist in road building in nearly every way.

Mr. Trevor Romano, General Manager of the SRC, pointed out to this newspaper yesterday that last year, prior to the October violence in the Spice Isle, his company had written to Government indicating an interest in spreading out to Caribbean areas of construction needs.

The SRC, with some \$40 million (TT) worth of equipment at its disposal, only needs time to study Grenada's peculiar situation before launching into the aid programme which Grenada wants and which the aid mission has recommended.

EXPERIENCED

Right now, the road construction firm, which is registered as a private company but which is financed through Government, has several multi-million dollar contracts on its hands.

"We have made bids for a lot more", Mr. Romano disclosed yes-

terday, "but if Trinidad and Tobago is to help out Grenada then it's not the SRC!"

Last year, in its bid to expand into Caricom as a skilled and efficient contractor, the four-year-old SRC wrote to Government last year:

"The Board of Directors at its meeting on August 8, 1983, in assessing the current state of the Company's achievements, expressed the view that the Company was now sufficiently experienced and established, especially in the area of designing and constructing prefabricated bridge systems.

"The Board is of the view, having regard to the many approaches which Regional Governments made to the Trinidad and Tobago Government for assistance, that arrangements could be made at governmental level for the provision of assistance in areas within the competence of the Company, and that Government can contract with S.R.C. to provide these services".

Even if it boils down to advice, we can provide that", said Mr. Romano yesterday, and he stressed that his company is in the business to seek work wherever it can, and make sure it is financially viable... which it is", he emphasised.

CSO: 3298/1079

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

STATISTICAL OFFICE REPORTS CURRENT TRADE FIGURES

Plus for January-May

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 84 p 15

[Text] TRINIDAD and Tobago recorded a favourable trade balance of \$102.3 million for the period January to May. During that time, the country imported goods worth \$1,925.1 million, while total exports were worth \$2,027.4 million.

Of the total amount of exports, \$1,979.3 were domestic exports.

This was disclosed by the Central Statistical Office in a bulletin on overseas trade.

The bulletin specified the sectors of trade for commodities and a breakdown for Caricom countries, comparing levels of trade with the same period for last year.

The principal commodities imported during the period January to May were:

Cereal and cereal preparations \$88.2 million, fruits and vegetables \$68.2 million, dairy products and eggs \$66.2 million, meat and preparations \$49.2 million, feeding stuff for animals \$37.8 million and sugar and preparations \$20.9 million.

Imports of these commodities have risen from 13.1 per cent in 1983 to 19.5 per cent in 1984.

Imports of vegetable oils and fats increased by \$7 million during this year compared to last year.

However, there were decreases in imports of machinery and transport equipment by \$633 million, mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials \$210 million, manufactured goods \$158 million, crude materials \$40 million, chemical \$28 million, food and live animals \$21 million and beverages and tobacco \$7.5 million.

Exports of chemicals increased by \$58 million, food and live animals by \$18 million, and manufactured goods by \$9 million.

Decreases were recorded for both imports and exports for some items.

There were decreases in exports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials by \$502 million and machinery and transport equipment by \$29 million.

Trade with the Caribbean community for January to May was unfavourable by \$48.8 million. Imports from Caricom countries amounted to \$129.6 million which represented 6.7 per cent of total imports. Domestic exports to Caricom totalled only \$80.7 million, or 4.1 per cent of total exports.

Guyana was the biggest Caribbean importer of Trinidad and Tobago's goods, taking 39.7 per cent of the market. Barbados followed with 17.7 per cent, Jamaica 9.9 per cent Saint Lucia 7.9 per cent, Grenada 6.5 per cent and Antigua 6.4 per cent.

Exports to Guyana increased by \$10 million and Saint. Lucia by \$1.4 million. However, this was offset by decreases in exports to Barbados of \$6.2 million and Jamaica \$4.7 million and Antigua \$1.4 million.

The main source of imports by Trinidad and Tobago was Barbados which had 27.6 per cent of imports from Caricom.

Exports to CARICOM

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 84 p 4

[Text]

THE value of Trinidad and Tobago exports to the Caribbean region, between January and May this year, showed an overall increase of \$1.9 million, when compared with the same period in 1983.

In a preliminary report on overseas trade the bulletin of the Central Statistical Office stated that total exports to our Caricom neighbours were valued at \$80.7 million, by the end of May.*

Trinidad and Tobago did most of her trading with Guyana, over this period, having sold \$32.1 million worth of goods to that country. The figure marked an increase of \$10.2 million over the corresponding period in 1983.

The value of goods exported to St Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla (grouped together in the report) Grenada, St Vincent, Saint Lucia and Montserrat also

showed increases.

But these increases were partly offset by significant decreases in the value of goods sold to Barbados and Jamaica.*

At the end of the five-month period, the value of goods sold to Barbados was down to \$14.8 million in 1983, showing a decrease of \$6.2 million. The value of goods sold to Jamaica dropped by \$4.7 million.

Barbados and Jamaica's trade with Trinidad and Tobago also fell off markedly over the period under review. Imports from Barbados were down to \$35.8 million from \$40.8 million, in 1983, while imports from Jamaica totalled only \$32.9 million, down from \$52.4 million, last year.

The decreases in imports from these two countries contributed to an overall decrease of \$29.4 million in imports from the Caricom region. Total imports from the region, for the first five months of the year, amounted to \$129.6 million.*

Six Month Surplus

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Aug 84 p 4

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago recorded a favourable balance of trade of \$133.4 million for the first six months of this year.

This represents a turn around in fortunes compared with an adverse balance of \$497.3 million for the same period (January-June) in 1983.

Trade figures released by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) show that exports during January-June this year amounted to \$2,388.8 million and import totalled \$2,255.4 million.

The turn around is also reflected for the month of June this year in which exports (\$351.7 million) topped imports (\$319 million) by \$32.7 million.

Adverse trading to the tune of \$12 million was recorded for June 1983 with the importation of goods valued at \$476 million as against exports worth \$463.9 million.

Bulk of the upturn over the six-month period came from exports in the petroleum sector with mineral fuels and lubricants fetching \$1,900.5 million. Exports from the non-oil sector totalled \$488.2 million.

Principal food and live animals category imports (January-June 1984) were: Cereal and cereal preparations (\$100.3 million), fruits and vegetables (\$179.6 million); dairy products and eggs (\$75.2 million) meat and meat preparations (\$59.2 million); animal feed (\$43.6 million) and sugar and sugar preparation (\$23.6 million).

The food and live animals section accounted for 19.2 per cent of total imports which was an increase of 5.8 per cent above the same period in 1983. The actual value of imports in this sector dropped by \$36.9 million.

Other major drops in imports compared with 1983 were machinery and transport equipment by \$702 million; mineral fuels and lubricants by \$242.8 million; manufactured goods by \$194.1 million and crude material by \$43.4 million.

The CSO report states that imports under the Caricom agreement totalled \$150.9 million while domestic exports reached \$104.5 million.

CSO: 3298/1080

ADVANCES, SUCCESSES REPORTED IN PETROLEUM SECTOR

Tesoro Growth

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 84 p 12

[Text]

DESPITE an after tax profit in 1982 that was \$33.1 million less than earnings for the previous year Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited has experienced steady and healthy growth in capital investments which should assure its survival for several decades.

According to the company's Chairman, Mr. G. Hamel Legall, it was a difficult year for the company.

He said in his annual report, "It was a period in which reduced prices, increased costs and a marginal fall in overall crude oil production imposed demanding tests upon our organisation's qualities of resourcefulness and creativity".

"The experience gained however has renewed confidence in the ability of our people to be resilient and adaptable in the face of rapidly changing realities of the international and

national business environment, a trend likely to continue in future years".

Mr. Legall said an anticipated decline in net earnings, which had been mentioned in the company's 1981 report, was realised with an after tax profit of \$84.1 million. This was \$33.1 million less than for fiscal year 1981.

But he added, "while earnings showed a decline, capital investment increased in 1982, reflecting a strategy of steady and healthy growth which should assure the survival of our Company for many more decades to come".

"In view of our investment needs, among other things, the entire 1982 earnings were ploughed back into our operations".

According to the Chairman's Report \$207.3 million was spent in capital expenditure, some 49 per cent higher than the 1981 figure. Of this amount \$116.4 million went into land operations where "returns on investment are at best marginal".

"From these land operations, our company, which has relentlessly challenged the frontiers of enhanced recovery technology, has managed to achieve a small but notable increase in crude oil prod-

duction — up from average 19,478 to 19,562 barrels of oil per day," Mr. Legall said.

PAYROLL

"Our marine production declined from an average daily production rate of 17,267 barrels to 16,134 barrels. However, the commissioning of a fourth offshore platform "Trinites D" off Point Galeota, coupled with certain initiatives at Trinmar, is expected to assist in arresting the decline in crude oil production from our offshore acreages".

He attributed the high level of operational activity recorded in 1982 to high employment levels with direct payroll numbering 2,529 at the end of the year.

"That 'people come first' is a commitment which Trinidad-Tesoro has continued to put into practice. Our industrial relations practices are exemplary in the industry with the result that there was no significant disruption in our operations emanating from conflicts with our employees or their representative trade unions".

"Triennial Collective Agreements were negotiated and executed yet again without the intervention of a third party. Indeed, full co-operation was received from the leadership of the respective bargaining units and I

wish to record our sincere thanks for the many useful ideas and suggestions which they proffered to improve the effectiveness of our company's operations".

Mr. Legall went on, "A high level of safety awareness was maintained throughout the year and a comprehensive programme of training and development activities was implemented".

"In August 1982, our Board of Directors was informed that Tesoro Petroleum Corporation has offered to sell to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago its 49.9 per cent equity interest in the joint venture".

"Negotiations between two shareholders had failed to bring about a decision on the matter since agreement on the price of shares was not reached. This issue was subsequently referred to the company's auditors in accordance with the Articles of Association relating to the formation of Trinidad Tesoro".

Mr. Legall said that the company set its goal of optimum operating efficiency and rapid technological development.

"We have charted our course accordingly and will be ready and able to make our contribution which ever way the winds blow", he concluded.

Government Plans

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 12 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] GOVERNMENT'S rationalisation plan for the local petroleum industry will begin to take shape shortly, according to reliable sources.

The first step in the anticipated announcement at the month end of the Government's bid to purchase Texaco's operations. It is not known whether the final settlement will be for 100 per cent or 75 per cent.

After Texaco, the Government will focus attention on its proposal to acquire the 49.9 per cent equity which Tesoro Petroleum Corporation of the U.S., has in Trinidad-Tesoro.

Attention

The Tesoro deal will draw increasing attention next month, for the Canadian investment firm--Dominion Securities--chosen by Tesoro to assist in the valuation of its shares, is due to present its report to the company's auditors by September 3.

After Tesoro, the Government is reported to be considering ownership in the Amoco oil company before year's end.

In his just published annual report on the company, the chairman of Trinidad-Tesoro recalled the offer by Tesoro Petroleum to sell its 49.9 per cent equity in Trinidad-Tesoro to the Government.

Negotiations between the two parties had failed to bring about a decision and the matter was referred to the auditors.

Trinidad-Tesoro said Mr. Legall, has set as its goal--optimum operating efficiency and rapid technological development.

"We have charted our course accordingly and will be ready and able to make our contribution whichever way the winds blow," he declared.

Earlier, in his report, Mr. Legall pointed out that the year 1982 was a difficult one for the company. There was an after-tax profit of \$84.1 million which was \$33.1 million less than in the previous year.

Essential

Meanwhile, Amoco, in its latest in-house magazine, has devoted a four-page supplement emphasising the importance of contract work in the company's operations.

Apart from pointing out that contractors were essential and their importance in various sectors of the company's work, Amoco says that its activities over the years had given birth to a large number of new contracting companies which were now leaders in their field.

In addition, Amoco says it has been responsible for the growth of many already established contractors during its 12 years of petroleum production operations in Trinidad.

On the expenditure side, Amoco said it has spent billions of dollars on contractor services during the past ten years.

It pointed out that despite the decline in crude production and the prevailing low crude prices, Amoco's operating expenses have increased from \$175 million

in 1980 to \$275 in 1984--a very large part of which was spent on contractor services.

In the Government's proposed rationalisation plan for the petroleum industry, no decision has yet been taken on the type and structure of the holding corporation that will come into operation when all of the major petroleum resources come under the ownership of the Government.

Based on the experiences of other governments that had set up similar holding companies like Pemex in Mexico, PDVSA in Venezuela and the one in Nigeria which proved unsuccessful from a political point of view, the Government is reportedly very cautious about the type of company it should establish to have control over the petroleum industry.

Texaco Talks Progress

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Aug 84 p 1

[Text] GOVERNMENT is set to take over Texaco. The agreement between Government and Texaco officials is reported to be almost finalised with only minor matters to be worked out. According to sources close to the oil industry, signs of the takeover are already evident.

It is understood that a price has been agreed upon, but details of what is actually being bought by Government and what is to be sold by Texaco were not available.

While details of the sale are top secret, it is believed that Texaco and the Government will enter into a special arrangement for marketing of Pointe-a-Pierre refinery products overseas.

It is also believed among knowledgeable people in the oil industry that the agreement will cover all of Texaco's assets, but it remains unclear what percentage of Texaco's assets would be actually bought by Government under the agreement.

Full takeover of Texaco will give Government full control of all oil refining in Trinidad.

Oilworkers yesterday saw the "writing was on the wall" in that the Texaco logo was not being painted on vehicles and has been removed from some.

An Oilfields Workers Trade Union (OWTU) official claimed that Texaco had awarded a contract to remove the Texaco sign from the Administrative Building.

This was denied by Texaco.

Asked to comment on the removal of Texaco signs from vehicles, a Texaco official said that the vehicles which had been changed were rented vehicles and a decision had been taken not to smear the vehicles with paint.

"Thus we have gone to plastic stick-on signs. It has nothing to do whatever with the negotiations.

On the question of the alleged contract to remove the Texaco sign, the official stated, "That is not true."

Next Meeting

The sixth round of talks relating to the sale were held last week in Port of Spain.

The Trinidad and Tobago negotiating team is headed by Mr Doddridge Alleyne, Trinidad and Tobago's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, while the Texaco team is being led by Mr T. B. Meadows.

The Texaco negotiators left for the United States on Friday.

It is understood that they will meet again before the end of the month.

Final decision on the sale of Texaco is expected to be made by Prime Minister George Chambers and likely date is Independence Day, August 31.

However, it is felt that if the minor details are not worked out for announcement by that date then the next likely date for announcement would be the next national holiday, Republic Day.

Government already has 100 per cent ownership of Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company Limited (Trintoc) and controlling interest in Trinidad Tesoro.

Talks for the remaining shares in Trinidad Tesoro to give Government full control are expected to resume next month.

CSO: 3298/1080

GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN HOLD ON ISCOTT, MOVE TO CUT LOSSES

Company's Assessment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by Kit Roxburgh]

[Text] THIS country's Iron and Steel Company (ISCOTT), which ran over \$200 million into the red last year, will lose considerably less in 1984.

Chief executive of the company, Mr Keith Toby, gave this assurance yesterday, but he stressed that because of the highly competitive nature of the steel industry internationally, coupled with seasonal peaks and troughs in the world market, he could not now give an exact forecast of the company's financial position by the end of '84.

But sales figures of the company's main export, wire rods, show an increase of 23.5 per cent over the corresponding January to July period in 1983.

For the first seven months of this year, the company sold 141,282 tons of wire rods, compared to 114,403 in the comparable span last year.

And Marketing Director Franklyn Wyke said that the demand for ISCOTT's products exceeds the ability to supply in many instances. But that is the problem, he said, ISCOTT must produce more--or face massive problems.

The company is fighting its way in the jungle of the world steel market, and, for survival and profit, it has to make the most of the good times such as the present, for it to cope with the bad.

For instance, ISCOTT is now able to sell steel at favourable price because countries such as the United States have moved out of the recessionary 1982/83 period.

Mr. Wyke stressed that because of the high quality of its directly reduced iron (DRI) which is converted and sold in the form of billets, wire rods and coils, ISCOTT has been insisting on a fair price in the US and other markets.

"Right now, that is what we are getting, but there were times when we had to settle for less than we wanted. And it is possible that despite a growing

conviction that our steel is comparable to the best in the world, we may have to sell at a somewhat lower rate."

Staff Reduced

Mr Toby pointed out that from a staff figure that peaked at over 1,100, the company now has 1,020 on the payroll--and that will be further reduced.

Contract labour has been eliminated entirely and department heads have been given strict budgets.

Mr Stephen Gardiner, Rod Mill Superintende said that he was able to cope with a 22 per cent budget cut this year.

Company officials told the "Guardian" that apart from the ten per cent and five per cent salary cuts at management and supervisory levels introduced this year, there has been greater productivity, except at one of the company's three main areas, the melt casting plant which is still limping after an explosion there in February.

Maintenance there is vital and expensive, and calls for high technology. Until that massive problem is cleared up, said officials, ISCOTT will feel more than just a pinch, financially. It was also stated that the plant was improperly laid down in the first place.

One short term way of getting around the melt casting problem is the buying of billets and their subsequent conversion into wire rods, which can in turn be marketed at a profit.

But, said Mr Wyke, this would mean getting the foreign exchange for the purchase in the first place.

A more attractive solution which ISCOTT is striving for is the conversion of billets into rods on a sort of job basis. That is, a country or company gets its own billets and ISCOTT charges a fee for the conversion.

"People tend to under-rate the local technology," said Mr Wyke, "but the fact is Trinidad and Tobago, through its own skills, made the largest shipment of DRI in the world, 27,000 tons recently."

He said that the problems at ISCOTT can be licked.

Government Position

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Aug 84 p 1

[Article by George Harvey]

[Text] GOVERNMENT will retain full ownership of the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) in its quest for foreign partnership to operate the State-run enterprise.

This was stated yesterday by a top government official in commenting on on-going discussions with three (West German, Austrian and United States) overseas companies for equity participation in the running of the modern steel plant at Point Lisas.

It was explained that the partnership concept took in the putting up of capital for the setting up of "a joint-venture operating company to lease and handle the operations of ISCOTT.

"It is not a question of government selling any shares in the steel company. Government plans to continue its full ownership of ISCOTT and also to be a major partner in the proposed operating company."

What about foreign management and technological expertise input to improve the operations of the problematic multi-million-dollar company?

The official pointed out: "The question of just professional management content is not being considered at the present time.

"What we want is for the partner to put in capital and whatever technical, marketing expertise and facilities available."

Main discussions are going on with the Austrian State-owned Voest-Alpine; Bechtel Corporation of California in the U.S. and the New Hamburg Steelworks.

Officials of the American firm were in Trinidad last week for talks with ISCOTT and government officials including the Minister of State Enterprises, Mr. Ronnie Williams.

A team from the German firm is due shortly for talks and on-the-site inspection of the steel plant.

The Government official was very optimistic over the partnership deal and expected "some sort of arrangement to be firmed up by the end of September."

He added: "We produce a high quality superior product. What we need to do is to produce efficiently and consistently at a cost so we can get long term contracts.

"It is necessary to get firm commitments for long term contracts instead of just trying to sell as we produce."

CSO: 3298/1081

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

BRIEFS

GOODS SHORTAGES--MASSIVE food shortages have hit supermarkets in Trinidad, resulting in smuggling of goods, blackmarket prices, and even the laying off of some workers. The problem already has supermarket owners tearing at their hair and consumers panicking, wondering where their next supply of oil or margarine is going to come from. President of the Supermarkets Association, Mr. Kenny Dabideen, said that there is a lengthy list of goods which are in short supply, the main ones being caused by the three-month-long strike at Lever Brothers. There are no detergents at all on the shelves, he said, along with a widespread absence of various types of oils, margarine and butter, and even a somewhat mysterious shortage of rice. [By Vashty Maharaj] [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Aug 84 p 1]

BAN ON PORK IMPORTS--ALL licences for the importation of pork and pork products will be banned. This decision was taken at a meeting yesterday between Mr. Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Mr. Desmond Cartey, Minister of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs, and officials of both ministries. However, the Ministry of Agriculture will be issuing permits for individuals to import one or two hams of their own. The issue of the illegal importation of pork and pork products was raised at the meeting. Minister Mohammed said it was established at the meeting that no licences for the importation of pork had been granted. It is possible, he said, that some pork products which were on sale at the moment were being imported through unauthorised ports, or were being brought in under licences granted for the importation of beef. These cheap imports were drawing the consumer away from locally produced pork products and hindering the local pig farming industry, the Minister said. A committee was formed at yesterday's meeting comprising the Ministry of Agriculture, the Customs Department and the Central Marketing Agency to investigate the leakages of pork imports into the country. The committee is to report to the Ministry in two weeks. [Excerpt] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 22 Aug 84 p 1]

CALL FOR TELCO PROBE--THE Communication Workers Union (CWU) has called for an inquiry into the operations of the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Company (Telco). The union feels that the management of Telco cannot properly account for millions of dollars spent upon a development programme. The union outlined several reasons why the inquiry should be held into the company: --Expected revenue based on the installation of new lines is not forthcoming

because of the total failure of contractors to meet deadlines. --In business services, the company's revenue was \$3.92 million while expenditure was \$6.793 million--the results of chronic mismanagement in the first six months of 1984. --Where installation deadlines have been met, jobs were inefficiently done. e.g. 3,000 lines were installed in Rio Claro but none is working. --In other areas, many homes have been wired and telephones installed--line service will not be available in the near future. These instruments are merely ornamental purposes. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 23 Aug 84 p 18]

CSO: 3298/1081

VENEZUELA

COMMUNIST PARTY MESSAGE TO RCP SECRETARY GENERAL

AU041350 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 30 Aug 84 p 4

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general, and to the RCP Central Committee:

Beloved Comrades,

The Communist Party of Venezuela Central Committee conveys to you warm greetings on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory of the antifascist and anti-imperialist revolution for social and national liberation of the Romanian people.

The historic importance of the act of 23 August 1944 has been marked for its extraordinary consequences. Romania, a backward country that was oppressed for centuries, has turned into a prosperous and independent nation, which unflaggingly proceeds on the road of socialist construction.

Beloved comrades, at this jubilee time for the Romanian people, for this government and party, the Venezuelan Communists are uniting with you and wish you new successes in your struggle against imperialism and for progress, peace, and socialism.

Long live the RCP!

Long live the friendship between our parties and peoples!

Long live the proletarian internationalism!

The Communist Party of Venezuela Central Committee.

CSO:3348/557

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28 Sept 1984